New site eyed for relocation of Tinian landfill. » PAGE 5

New law exempts NMHC staff from salary cap. » PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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March deadline for wage survey

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The Department of Commerce is expected to complete a prevailing wage survey in the Commonwealth this March.

Alfonsis Sound, director of the department's Central Statistics Division, confirmed that the wage survey was started on Jan. 12 with a completion target by the end of March.

The Central Statistics Division is spearheading the survey.

Sound, in a telephone interview, said the March deadline might still be affected by possible delays, such as businesses that might not send in their survey forms on time.

Sound said the survey is now 65 percent complete, with the remaining 35 percent of respondents (including businesses on Tinian and Rota) currently being "encouraged to participate in the survey."

"Our enumerators are still out on the field con-

See MARCH on Page 4

DOI funding for CUC pipeline now at $8.1M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior has approved an additional funding of $2.65 million to complete the construction of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s stalled pipeline project.

» DOI approves additional $2.6M

With the additional funds, DOI's total funding for the pipeline project now balloons to $8.1 million since the project was initiated in 2010.

The CNMI government, through assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday about Office of Insular Affairs' formal notice of the award of

See DOI on Page 4

JAYSON CAMACHO

Eight female contestants vie for the hot pepper-eating contest championship, where ground *donni sali* is mixed with soba and contestants eat everything until the last bit. Lucia Ayuyu, fourth from right, held on to her title for the second year in a row as the hot pepper eating champion. The 11th Annual Hot Pepper Festival was held in Kammer Beach, Tinian over the weekend.

See more photos on Pages 13, 14

Hundreds attend 11th Annual Pika Festival

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_ Camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KAMMER BEACH, Tinian—This year's 11th Annual Pika Festival over the weekend was a hit, with visitors and residents alike flocking to Tinian to experience a unique celebration of the island's *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island.

The festival kicked off at 2pm on Saturday and, despite a slow start, Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas said that Tinian is "hitting strong" as it rolls over the celebration of the festival's 11th year with entertainment, food, and various competitions.

Besides San Nicolas, others that gave opening remarks included Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, and Tinian Municipal Council chair Reynaldo Cing.

Tinian Senior and Junior High School's JROTC followed with a rifle demonstration for the crowd.

In the Umang Race for boys, Brayden Santos came in first place as his *umang*, or crab, was the biggest and fastest. Marcial and Mark Soliva came in second and third, respectively. In the girls division, Hailey Rae Santos took first place,

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Snow and high winds roar into New England for the fourth time in a month.
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At age 3, Angelica Lopez is helping to break a sound barrier for deaf children.
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The Grammys throw a post-awards party to honor Stevie Wonder.
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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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Local

Cultures in War conference footage to air this week

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last year's history conference will air on Channel 14 beginning today, Monday, according to Eulalia Villagomez, Northern Marianas Humanities Council program officer.

The footage will run from Feb. 16 to 21, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

"Last year, NMHC hosted a history conference in conjunction with events to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Battle for the Marianas featuring presentations by 14 regional and international scholars on a range of topics relating to the World War II battle for the Marianas and its aftermath within the larger context of the Pacific War," Villagomez said.

"Through support from Docomo Pacific, Inc., conference presentations will air in one-hour segments on Channel 14 beginning on Monday. Presentations will also be available on the council's YouTube page," Villagomez added.

The footage will include presenters Harold Goldberg, Prof. Anderson Giles, Damien O'Connell, Kathleen Williams, Theodore Cook, Lisa Yoneyama, Haruko Cook, Yujin Yaguchi, Alfred Flores, Michael Clement Jr., Jessica Jordan, Matthew Hughes, Courtney Short, and Don Farrell.

In the footage, Goldberg will discuss the Battle of Saipan beyond 1944 to examine ways in how the struggle "transcends time, place, and nationality."

Giles will discuss the Seabees construction on Tinian, the B-29 air campaign, construction and use of atomic bomb facilities and their deployment, and the process of how man and nature have transformed the site of the ruins and their story in the present.

Military historian O'Connell will discuss Marine Private First Class Guy Gabaldon who "single-handedly" captured over 1,000 Japanese servicemen during the Battle of Saipan.

Williams will discuss how people battled their wounds, both physical and psychological, and the scars of battle survivors. T. Cook will discuss the Japanese side of the war from the ground level and the Japanese survivors.

See CULTURES on Page 4

Net metering law signed for health, education

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

A net metering scheme for both the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Public School System is now law.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Friday signed into law Senate Bill 18-67, which now becomes Public Law 18-75.

S.B. 18-67 was introduced by former senator Pete Reyes. The bill was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature last December.

Net metering is a low-cost type of renewable energy technology that allows customers to bank their energy and use it at their convenience and then sell any excess power they produce to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CHCC and PSS have been saddled with "exorbitant bills each month," proponents of S.B. 18-67 said, and that "the Commonwealth government cannot afford to fully subsidize CHCC and the PSS in order to satisfy their monthly utility bills."

Accordingly, the purpose of S.B. 18-67 is "to provide a definition for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity at CUC."

CHCC and PSS can potentially save millions of dollars in utility costs through net metering.

CHCC for instance, is averaging $400,000 to $500,000 a month in utility costs. Utility cost is the second highest expenditure for the CHCC, reaching more than $6 million a year.

In an earlier report, PSS said its CUC bill in October reached $209,000. PSS had a usage of 436,000 kilowatt hours for total power expense of $190,000.

In November, total expenses went down slightly to $199,732. Consumption was at 434,000 kilowatt hours but expense was reduced because rates were going down.

In December, total expenses increased slightly to $201,795. About $136,663 of this was in total power cost, even as PSS usage jumped to 467, 000 kilowatt hours.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2015 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Pacific Islands Club-Napu Room at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2014 Fourth General Membership Meeting Minutes of 9/26/14
V. Reports
a. SILC Chairperson
b. CLI Executive Director
c. OVR Director
VI. Old Business
a. Update on National Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities
b. Update on Training for Outreach
VII. New Business
a. Update on SILC Congress Conference
b. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Designated State Entity, Training & Technical Assistance, etc.
c. IL Funds Drawdown
d. RFP: 5 Core IL Services
e. Resource Directory
f. SILC Banner
g. Pac-Rim Conference
h. DD Awareness Month Activities – March 2015
i. Autism Awareness Month Activities – April 2015
j. Review of SILC Membership Attendance
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) 3 days before the meeting for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Gernadine DLC. Camacho
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Pilot, travel agency dismissed from plane crash suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed a Korean pilot and a China-based travel agency from a lawsuit filed in federal court by six passengers of a plane that crashed at the Saipan International Airport in 2012.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed pilot Jae Choi and Tianing Travel Agency from the lawsuit in an order Thursday.

Manglona said the court will dismiss Choi and Tianing Travel Agency from the lawsuit to preserve the court's diversity jurisdiction.

"Diversity jurisdiction does not encompass foreign plaintiffs suing foreign defendants," said Manglona, citing precedent.

All six passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft, including one who died when the plane crashed at the Saipan International Airport in 2012, have filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court.

The plaintiffs are Weilian Lu, Yixiao Ge, Xin Hong, Meilin Zhou, Xiaohua Zhou, and Xiuzhong Zhu, all Chinese citizens.

Xiaojie Ge is representing his wife, Lu, who died, and their minor child, Yixiao Ge. Attorney Mark B. Hanson and the Los Angeles-based Girardi law firm are counsels for plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs are suing Choi, Star Marianas Air Inc., Marianas Air Travel, Tinian Transportation Management Solutions Inc., Tianing Travel Agency, Century Tours, Top Development Inc., and 100 unnamed co-defendants, for negligence, wrongful death, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

In addition, the plaintiffs are suing Star Marianas Air for fraud.

Last Jan. 6, the plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed Century Tours from the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs are demanding unspecified amount of damages, compensation, attorney's fees, and court costs.

According to the complaint, a seven-passenger Piper PA-32 Cherokee Six being piloted by Choi crashed into the trees north of the runway at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Nov. 19, 2012.

The plane was being operated by Star Marianas Air, chartered by Marianas Air Travel, and maintained by Tinian Transportation Management Solutions.

Hanson said all the plaintiffs were aboard this flight except for the minor, Ge.

Hanson said the flight was to shuttle six plaintiffs to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino as part of a trip package put together by Tianing and Top Development.

While taking off at 6:20am, the plane allegedly lost power and nose-dived into the trees adjoining the north side of the runway. A fire then ensued.

See PILOT on Next Page

Military training on FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 16-20, from 8am to 7pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

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PSS counselor of the year is Melanie Sablan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Public School System Counselor of the Year is Marianas High School's Melanie Sablan.

She was notified of the award via a surprise visit by the Board of Education and PSS staff last Thursday.

Sablan told the *Saipan Tribune* that to receive the award is "a prestige and honor."

"It is the honor of knowing that I have made a difference in a student's life," she said. "I firmly believe that is our job to educate our kids no matter what issues or challenges they confront. As a counselor, I play a major role in ensuring the personal and social well-being of a child, in order for a child to excel academically and in turn, become college- and career-ready. I must admit that it is a daunting task and no matter how much training I undergo, when the struggle is real for a child, it comes down to maximizing my efforts and doing what best suits the interest of the child.

"I thank God for affording me the opportunity and the ability to help others. It is in this act that I find my greatest reward. I wholeheartedly share this award with all my students and fellow counselors," she added.

Sablan thanked her daughters, Herminia Kolani and Auriahny Jean, for being the "driving force in life" and making her believe "that I can go beyond my potential."

She also thanked the CNMI Board of Education and the whole Public School System for its support and for affording her the opportunity "to be a part of the educational lives of our children."

BOE chair Herman Guerrero said that strengthening the counseling services provided to students has been one of the things they've been pushing the last few years.

"One of the thing we have done is to establish additional provisions within PSS," he said, citing the recent Office of Student and Support Services headed by associated commissioner Yvonne Pangleninan as an example of this.

Saipan's Nishida interns at Talk Radio News Service

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Calvary Christian Academy 2012 alumna Midori Nishida is interning as a reporter for Talk Radio News Service in Washington, D.C. The Waseda University junior is participating in the Spring Prudential Foundation Global Citizens Program.

According to The Washington Center's website, the program provides undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to spend a semester in an experiential learning program "that exposes them to the role the U.S. government plays in the context of an increasingly interdependent world."

Selected students will also be interning four days a week at an internship site that matches their future career interests and will attend classes once a week on a variety of subjects.

"Overall, the program is an amazing opportunity to gain hands-on experience in my field of interest as well as learn valuable skills necessary to be successful in today's globalized economy. I am truly honored to be representing not just Waseda University but Japan as well," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Nishida is majoring in media & communications, with a minor in journalism. She hopes to work in publishing as a writer and eventually an editor. She has always enjoyed writing and is very interested in advertising and public relations as a career field.

Nishida said that growing up on Saipan has taught her to seize every opportunity that presents itself.

"Being a small island, I used to feel that students in Saipan had fewer opportunities compared to other students in other countries. For that reason, I was quick to accept any opportunity that was given to me and I don't regret anything at all," she explained.

"…While it may seem that living in a small island provides little opportunity, the truth is that it all depends on how much initiative you take to seek out those chances. Living on Saipan has also taught me to be proud of your background and to not forget your roots, they are what shape you," she added.

She urges Saipan youth to find fun in learning: "It's important to ask yourself, why are you sitting here in class studying? If your answer is to get good grades, then I think you've missed the point. Education should be more about learning because you have a desire to know more, and I believe that's something you will learn when you venture out into the world."

Nishida has already published several articles during her internship, ranging from the Affordable Care Act to Pope Francis' upcoming visit to D.C.

She is the daughter of Tomohiko and Victoria Nishida.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Calvary Christian Academy 2012 alumna Midori Nishida.

HUNDREDS

From Page 1

Janean King took second place, and Paige Melanee took third.

The hot pepper-eating contest for women featured two Korean celebrities, Do Aira and Soo Min Lee, who are both Korean models. And for the second year in a row, Lucia Ayuyu took home the first place trophy. Yashoda Adhikari took second place, while Marilyn San Nicolas took third.

Ayuyu said she feels great to retain the crown in the hot pepper-eating contest and that she'll try to continue to be the reigning champ in the female category next year.

Aside from the entertainment and competitions, over 24 booths sold food, drinks, alcohol, clothing, accessories, hot peppers, and many more items for visitors and residents to enjoy.

MVA's Tenorio said the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is a much-anticipated event that continues to grow in popularity with both local residents and off-island guests.

"It is Tinian's premier event and validates how the public and private sector can work together successfully. In the next couple of days, you will truly discover the taste and warmth of Tinian and its people," Tenorio said.

A visitor from Guam told *Saipan Tribune* that he has been attending the Pika Festival for over five years. He said he waits for the festival every year and books his flights early.

The festival was not without some minor glitches. According to Tinian MVA's Vida Borja, the ferry departing for Saipan yesterday had a last-minute cancellation due to safety reasons. Guests who expected to ride the ferry back to Saipan were informed to see MVA representatives for help.

The last ferry that left Tinian yesterday was at 2pm.

"Despite the ferry being cancelled on the last day of the event, the turnout was better this year. We had different entertainment and had more local entertainers take the stage and had really good competitions and we will continue to do that," Borja said.

DOI

From Page 1

$2,648,082 for the pipeline construction project.

The project is one of many under stipulated order number 2. SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that include the CUC pipeline; tank erection cleanout and testing; secondary containment; and used oil disposal, and others.

Pursuant to the federal court's orders, the CNMI was required to deposit $2.8 million into the District Court's registry or file a notice of DOI's authorization to proceed for funding SO2 projects by Feb. 13, 2015.

Sablan said the $2.6 million will be available for the Engineering and Environmental Management Company to use for the pipeline project.

Sablan said the CNMI will not reprogram the funds without the mutual agreement of the parties: the CNMI and U.S. governments, CUC, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As for the remaining balance of $151,918, Sablan said the CNMI submitted a project proposal for contract management and administration and that DOI is in the process of reviewing the proposal.

In a joint stipulation also filed Friday, the parties asked the court to extend the deadline for the remaining $151,918 to Feb. 17, 2015, to give more time for the DOI review process and for the CNMI to obtain the authorization to proceed with the project proposal for construction management and administration.

Aside from Sablan for the CNMI, the other signatories were U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien and CUC counsel James S. Sirok.

OIA's grants management specialist Keith W. Aughenbaugh informed CNMI CIP administrator Virginia Villagomez about the authorization to proceed with the project to devote $2.6 million on Feb. 5, 2015.

The pipeline project was initiated in 2010 at a cost of $1.8 million. Due to numerous problems that contributed to the project's delay, the cost rose to $6 million in 2013.

The oil pipeline project is an eight-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. EPA had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

The U.S. and the CNMI governments recently agreed to extend the deadline for the CNMI to comply with the $2.8 million funding requirement for some CUC projects.

Under a settlement agreement between EPA, CUC, and the CNMI government, the CNMI must deposit $2.8 million into the U.S. District Court for the NMI's registry or file a notice with the court of the Department of the Interior's authorization to proceed for funding SO2 projects by Feb. 1, 2015.

The parties, through their respective counsels, stated that the U.S. government, including EPA and DOI's Office of Insular Affairs, the CNMI, and CUC, along with the Engineering and Environmental Management Company have been working cooperatively and meeting regularly to obtain an authorization to proceed from DOI to devote $2.8 million to SO2 projects.

PILOT

From Page 3

Hanson said the crash and fire killed Lu and injured Choi and five of the passengers.

The lawyer noted that the aircraft was manufactured in 1969 and at the time of the crash had already accrued 6,805 hours of service.

Hanson cited that Star Marianas has now been involved in a number of plane crashes and incidents since mid-2012.

MARCH

From Page 1

ducting the survey," Sound said.

March 11 was set as the deadline for Saipan, while March 18 and March 21 were the designated deadlines for Rota and Tinian, respectively.

"I am optimistic we can complete the survey by the designated target," Sound said, adding that other stakeholders in the wage survey such as the Department of Labor and private groups like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce are eagerly awaiting the results of the survey.

The prevailing wage survey is needed to enable local businesses to successfully petition H1 visas for their employees, according to the Department of Commerce.

The U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is funding the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study.

Among the questions that are being asked in the survey relate to job description, the going rate for that job, and the type of benefits received by the employee of that certain job.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said that, unlike in 2013 when both the Chamber and Commerce conducted two separate surveys, the island's biggest business organization this time would be depending on the government to do the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study by itself.

"It's being conducted by the CNMI government as it should be. It should be a government function," Sablan earlier said.

He said the CNMI developing its own prevailing wage study is important because using the prevailing wage in Guam "is unfair and detrimental to the local economy."

"The wages for an H1 employee in the CNMI is segued to Guam's prevailing wage, which is much, much higher. Our economy is different than Guam and the wage scale is different regardless of the situation. We have a different economy and we need to determine what scale we have so companies won't inadvertently be impacted here with a scale that has no relevance," the executive said.

Sablan said the only way the CNMI can have access to more H1 workers is for the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study to be conducted every two years as required by the federal government.

CULTURES

From Page 2

Yoneyama has an eye-catching narrative about Japan and, by extension the areas of Asia and the Pacific, about forming the Japanese empire. H. Cook will discuss a detailed look behind the Battles of Saipan and Tinian on the use and abuse of propaganda that led to false tales of what actually happened through eyewitness accounts from both sides of the fighting nations.

Yaguchi will discuss contemporary Japanese tourism to the CNMI with a focus on "how it continues today's Japanese memories of the Asia-Pacific War." Flores will discuss what took place in Guam after World War II that changed the island after the U.S. military engaged in a significant expansion project.

Clement will discuss militarization and music in a cross-cultural encounter in Guam and Saipan during World War II and the early post-war years. Jordan will discuss the CNMI's Chamorro participation in the invasion and occupation of Guam as scouts and interpreters.

Hughes will discuss the treatment by U.S. military forces of civilians during the War in the Pacific, including Japanese and Korean migrants living on the Pacific islands, and the "native" islanders such as the indigenous people of the CNMI. Jordan will discuss the Naval Military Government that operated in Okinawa from September 1945 to 1946.

Farrell will talk about the plans to drop atomic bombs on Japan and how the CNMI was chosen as the "forward base" from which the atomic bombs would be launched.

New site eyed for the relocation of Tinian landfill

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SAN JOSE, Tinian—The relocation of Tinian's landfill in Puntan Diablo is still being discussed with the U.S. military but a proposed site has already been identified, according to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

The Tinian landfill is an open dump, which is the subject of health and environmental concerns by local and federal agencies. The dump is located southwest of Tinian and near the airport.

San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* an appropriate site has been located but this is still up for discussion with the military. The area is in Pina, which in the eastern part of Tinian.

"The property where the dump sits has been leased to Alter City Group so the leadership is working very hard to relocate the dump and we've thought that the appropriate site should be at Pina," he said.

Alter City's land lease for a proposed $360-million casino resort was approved by the CNMI's 18th Legislature in November last year. The open dumpsite in Puntan Diablo is the proposed area for the Alter City's land lease.

Alter City has proposed to provide funding for the relocation of the dumpsite, saying that they wouldn't move forward with their project until Tinian's leadership relocates the dumpsite.

In February 2010, the CNMI government solicited bids for the architectural and engineering design of the Tinian sanitary landfill, which had some $5.4 million in available federal and local funding then and would cover the planning and actual construction of the landfill and transfer station.

San Nicolas said the municipality's leadership is moving aggressively for the opening of the new landfill.

In the past, the relocation of the landfill was complicated by the fact that the land being eyed was in an area leased by the U.S military, which earlier asserted that they might need to close access to the area in the event of training.

This would require Tinian to build a transfer station that would be able to accommodate waste for a longer period of time.

"The transfer station has been identified and there are some regulatory requirements. There will be a public hearing and it will be sponsored by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality," San Nicolas said.

According to Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres during the Pika Festival yesterday, the CNMI government is working on helping the Tinian municipality for the construction of both the transfer station and the new Tinian landfill.

The Tinian landfill violates regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as it is neither covered, segregated, and lacks equipment such as a bulldozer.

Ex-CUC staff files 3rd amended discrimination lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee whose discrimination lawsuit against CUC had been twice thrown out in federal court has filed a third amended complaint.

In his new lawsuit filed last week, Carlton Stevens named as defendants CUC and its officials—executive director Alan W. Fletcher, human resources director Francisco Cepeda, wastewater manager Richard Wasser, and wastewater and wastewater manager Paul Raczkowski.

Stevens, through counsel Pamela Brown-Blackburn, is suing the defendants in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for racial discrimination with respect to privileges of employment and retaliation.

Stevens is demanding unspecified amount of damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Stevens wants the court to declare that CUC's discriminatory employment practices are in violation of Title VII (discrimination).

Stevens, an African-American, is suing CUC and its four officials for allegedly not renewing his contract as direct responsible charge operator in CUC's wastewater division, providing him a used and inoperable computer, and not providing him an office space, among other complaints.

Last Feb. 4, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Stevens' second amended discrimination lawsuit, but gave him a final chance to amend his complaint a third time.

Manglona granted CUC's motion to dismiss Stevens' second amended complaint for failure to adequately plead compliance with the statutory preconditions to bring a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act claim (discrimination).

Stevens was given seven days from the date of the order to file a third amended complaint, or the case will be dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can't be re-opened anymore.

Last December, Manglona dismissed Stevens' claims against CUC, Fletcher, Cepeda, Wasser, and Raczkowski, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice all of Stevens' claims against Fletcher, Cepeda, Wasser, and Raczkowski, and dismissed without prejudice his complaint against CUC.

Stevens subsequently filed the second amended complaint.

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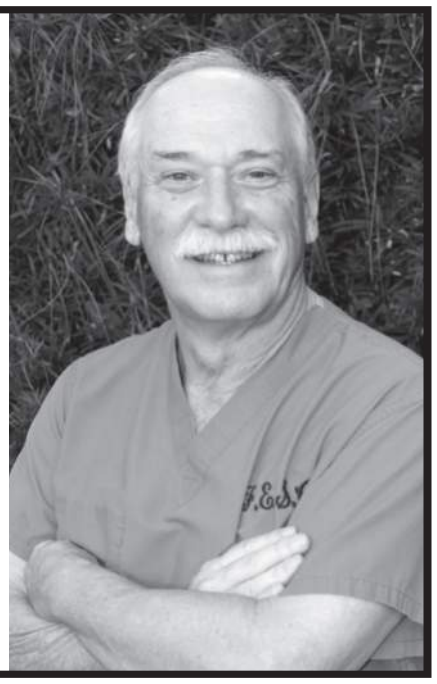

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP15-GOV-037

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The project Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 16, 2015** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **February 27, 2015** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**Construction Management/Contract Compliance", RFP15-GOV-037.** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., March 18, 2015 (CNMI local time)**.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

ELOY S. INOS
Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Monday, April 06, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

New law exempts NMHC staff from salary cap

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has signed into law House Bill 18-211, which exempts officials and employees of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. from the salary limits imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act.

H.B. 18-211, which Inos signed on Friday, is now Public Law 18-74.

The House of Representatives passed the bill last November, while the Senate passed it in December.

The measure states that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires all Public Housing Authorities like NMHC "to provide on an annual basis data on the compensation for their top 5 highest compensated employees to ensure that pay ranges are commensurate with the size and number of housing units in housing authorities in uniformity with federal standards."

NMHC director Jesse Palacios earlier said that keeping NMHC salaries in line with federal standards is important in retaining his staff.

Palacios said that NMHC lost three of its staff—all of whom hold master's degrees—because of the agency's current low salaries.

"It's really good for our staff…good for our staff who have the training, experience, and institutional knowledge. We will now be able to retain them rather than see them look for other jobs with higher pay. It's more of continuity for us, too. We invested in our staff so we want our staff to also remain at NMHC," he said.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), along with Reps. Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and former representative Janet U. Maratita introduced the bill.

The lawmakers supporting H.B 18-211 noted that the NHMC is federally funded and that removing salary limitations will not "hurt local coffers."

The NHMC, established by Executive Order 94-3, is an autonomous government agency that responds to the housing, mortgage and community development needs of the people of the Commonwealth through the administration of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs.

Man arrested for violating court's restraining order

Police arrested last week a 34-year-old man who allegedly violated a temporary restraining order by forcing open the door to the room of his former girlfriend so he could see their child and pushing her.

Sheldon James Kainoa was taken to Superior Court on Thursday for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, contempt of court, violation of protection order, and criminal mischief.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $7,500 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Feb. 18.

Police detective Maverick Saures stated in his report that police officers responded to a report of an assault and battery incident in Tanapag on Feb. 7 at 2:42am.

Saures said the victim told police that she was in the bedroom when she heard someone knocking on the door. She ignored it but soon heard Kainoa telling her to open the door as he wanted to see their daughter before he leaves for Guam. She became scared and ignored him. Kainoa then allegedly forced open the door, breaking the chain lock. She pushed him out but Kainoa allegedly pushed her, causing her to fall onto the couch. Kainoa then left.

The victim's mother, who was on the first floor of the house, saw Kainoa outside the house and checked her daughter, who told her that he came and pushed her. The mother immediately called police.

On June 18, 2014, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued a TRO prohibiting Kainoa from having direct or indirect contact with the victim. The TRO expires on June 18, 2015. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Former NBA coach returns to FSM

Former NBA coach Tom Newell, representing the U.S. State Department as a Sports Ambassador, returned to the Federated States of Micronesia for two weeks of motivational talks and basketball clinics on Pohnpei and Chuuk. The clinics primarily focused on teaching island coaches techniques and drills they can use with their players and how to use the love of basketball to teach life lessons. Newell also visited local high schools and the College of Micronesia to deliver motivational talks focused on healthy eating and making good choices in life.

While on Pohnpei, Newell worked with 22 local coaches. The skills they learned this year built on the skills they were taught last year. The local coaches spent the mornings in the classroom, and the afternoons working with local high school teams.

Newell also delivered 25 basketballs to the Kitti Youth Police Association. This gift fulfilled a promise he made last year to help the youth group with their basketball program.

In Chuuk, Newell worked with 20 coaches. Based on the level of engagement of the Chuukese coaches, Newell promised to try to return for a longer visit next year. He visited public and private schools across the island to deliver his positive message about healthy eating and making good life choices.

Newell began his basketball career working as a scout for the Golden Warriors in the early 1980's. After serving as the Indiana Pacers Director of Player Personnel in 1984, he moved on to work as an assistant coach for the Seattle Super Sonics (now in Oklahoma City). During the 1990s, he served as assistant coach for the New Jersey Nets, college scout for the Milwaukee Bucks, and assistant coach for the Dallas Mavericks. In 1995, Newell became head coach for the Greek professional team Iraklis Thessaloniki B.C., and began working in international programs. He later joined the coaching staff of the short-lived WNBA team Portland Fire. Newell was also the Men's National Team Coach of Japan in 2000, as well as coach of the Jilin NE Tigers China Basketball Association team. He currently travels as a Sports Ambassador for the State Department, teaching coaches and players about the game of basketball. He also represents FIBA as an expert instructor in their Olympic Development Program for Third World countries. Newell is very active in his community with free camps and clinics for kids ages, 7-15. ***(U.S. Embassy Kolonia)***

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

Former NBA coach Tom Newell, representing the U.S. State Department as a Sports Ambassador, returned to the FSM for two weeks of motivational talks and basketball clinics on Pohnpei and Chuuk.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. Division Reports
b. Proposed FY 2016 Budget
c. QAP 2015-2016 Board Resolution
d. Staff Training
e. CDBG Asset Acquisition

IV. OLD BUSINESS
a. Garapan Annex RFP
b. Travel Policy

V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Loans for Review and Approval

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ TOM GLENN A. QUITUGUA
Vice Chairman of the Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
a. January 27, 2015 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
a. CIP
b. FPA
c. ISA
d. SARC
e. SICPP
3. Commissioner of Education
a. Financial Status Reports
i. Federal
ii. Local
b. Head Start Program Report
c. Updates:
i. JROTC
ii. Middle School
d. Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. BOE-PSS Comments to Senate Bill No. 19-03
2. State Education Technology Director
3. Federal Assistance SF-424 (Community Facility Loan) Application
4. GO Bond
5. 2014 Annual Report
6. Proclamation: March as Middle School Month
7. Head Start Program matters:
a. Self-Assessment Plan for SY2014-2015
b. Community-Assessment Plan for SY2014-2015

VI. Executive Session[2]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1]Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Regular Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
III. Public Comment
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes
VI. New Business
A. Casino License Agreement
VII. VLT
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Department of Finance Office of the Secretary at 664-1100.

CNMI breadfruit workshop opens door into future market

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A breadfruit workshop at the Hafadai Beach Hotel on Friday brought together dozens of island leaders to learn about the potential of breadfruit as a growing commercial product, a source of nutrition, a tie to island culture, and a staple for food security in the Pacific.

A visiting team of experts from the University of Hawaii's Pacific Development Center Team led talks on the growing demand for breadfruit products from the Pacific and gave the crowd an inside look into the process of making breadfruit flour.

The workshop continued into Saturday at the NMC campus.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos created the CNMI Breadfruit Initiative in 2013 to work with PDCT in developing the potential and capacity of breadfruit locally. The task force is made up of CNMI leaders, Northern Marianas College-CREES, and the Commonwealth Development Authority. It is based on the principles of commercialization, nutrition, and food security.

The initiative's point man and project manager, Ivan Blanco, said that PDCT presented a regional and national network that the CNMI could tap into. These include milling, propagation, product development, intellectual property right, agroforestry, disaster management and food security, and community capacity experts, among others.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who was named to the initiative when he was still Commerce secretary, commended the "background work already done" by PDCT that made the project attractive from the get go.

This includes an inventory of species, and science that evaluated this, as well as an understanding of custom, culture, and tradition in regards to the breadfruit, on top of a direction to go in terms of marketing.

But what people really felt, Igisomar said, was the "sustainability" part of the project. "At the end you really help the people out," he said.

"It was very smart of them to provide the vehicle already. They got the vehicle and came to us and said this is what we have. All it really required next was partnership and commitment. And I think that's from there we clicked… it's really too good to ignore and give up. Everybody has breadfruit…the entire Pacific ocean has it," he said.

PCDT's Kalani Souza said they are "taking the health route" with this product.

"We are trying to make a 100-percent gluten-free product. We think we can do that through a combination of natural products that are here [like] coconut flour, cassava flour with breadfruit," he said.

PCDT's Craig Evelitch hopes the project drives local businesses that target local markets like hotels and restaurants.

"They'll develop interesting products that will show more and more potential. Some of them will be winners; some of them will be losers but that innovation will drive further product development," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

In-house workshop teaches workers of community services available to them

DENNIS B. CHAN

Division of Youth Services and other government agency staff pose for a photo during a break from their workshop at Mariana Resort and Spa last Thursday.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services held a staff-in-service workshop on community assistance programs available to them in their daily line of work last Thursday and Friday.

DYS administrator Vivian Sablan said a major component of the DYS action is to increase professionalism and this workshop added to that.

"I brought agencies in together that cover community assistance programs that DYS deals with on a regular basis with our families. My intention is get these people in and have an overview, a question-and-answer session to clarify some of our protocol issues so we can also improve on our standard operating procedures," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

For example, one presentation from the Department of Public Safety was on car seat safety.

"We transport clients on a regular basis, to and from appointments—when we move clients from homes and take them shelter, when we transport clients to foster care. So we want to make sure that we have the knowledge we need to make sure the kids are safe,'

Melycher Sablan, a DYS caseworker for the last four years, said one thing she learned was "how to install car seats" the right way.

She also got good advice from the Medicare office.

"Before, we would line up and turn in applications for our clients… but today it's much faster if applications are attached with a letter from DYS," she said.

Other agencies that participated were the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, CNMI Social Security Office, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, and Commonwealth Health Care Corp., among others.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500135
Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Governor's Conference Room located in the first floor of the Juan A. Sablan Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes - December 5 & 19, 2014

II. REPORTS:
- A. Chairman's Report
- B. Committee Report
- C. Executive Director's Report

III. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. Office facility, furnishings/fixtures, equipment & supply needs
- B. Commissioner's Training

IV. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016
- B. Personnel Matters
- C. Office vehicle lease

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.)

/s/ JUAN M. SABLAN
Chairman

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 14-0146) **AMENDED SUMMONS (For Publication)**

TO : DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED January 29, 2015

CLERK OF COURT
Third Publication

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL R. MUÑA and MINA L. MUÑA, Defendants.) Civil Action No. 11-0078) NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF JUDICIAL SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 26th day of February, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable David A. Wiseman on Plaintiff's Motion for an Order of Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 31 day of December, 2014.

/s/ KRISTY DIAZ
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
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Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, vs. JUAN P. SAN NICOLAS and JOANN M. SAN NICOLAS, Defendants.) Civil Action No. 13-0178 (R)) NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 30th day of May , 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of March, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Bank of Guam, District II, Songsong Village, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 172 located in Sinapalo, Rota, containing an area of 1,057 square meters, more or less as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 04 dated December 19, 1983, on file in said office.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 4th day of February 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Charity adopts Saipan street market idea in Kenya

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Empty Vessel Ministry charity manager Rose Smith recently traveled to her hometown in Kenya to continue her charity work and oversee the opening of a newly established street market there.

According to Smith, Empty Vessel in Kenya borrowed the idea of Saipan's Thursday night street market to promote tourism and cultural activities.

"We also wanted to give businesses, organizations, and artists the opportunity to showcase or sell their products," she told *Saipan Tribune*. Colleges and universities also took advantage of the event and set up information booths for community outreach.

In addition to businesses and promotional activities, more than 2,500 families benefited from free medical outreach at the street market in December and January. The street market also encourages farmers to turn agriculture into a business and to grow more crops.

Smith noted that agriculture is one sector in Kenya that most natives make a living on.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ELITE company showcases their special corn storage bags at the newly established street market in Kenya, East Africa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rose Smith, front row, fourth from left, Empty Vessel volunteers, and St. Luke Hospital staff pose for a photo at the newly established street market.

Smith also brought with her on her trip a locally donated computer. "Any help extended to our organization is vital to our work and we highly appreciate organizations, donors, and volunteers who are standing with us," she said. "It is our prayer and wish, if we can ship a container of clothes and basic needs once a year to Kenya, that will be a big help."

Smith explained that working people in Kenya earn as little as $25 a month.

"That is not enough to buy food, pay school or hospital fees, needs in case of sickness. If EVM can help provide free basic needs, like our garage store here on Saipan, it will be a big help there."

Smith expressed her gratitude to businesses on Saipan for supporting the efforts of the charity in recent years, such as Tan Holdings, AA Enterprises, and Kevin's Department Store.

MBA students shine in forensics competition

The following are the results of the Marianas Baptist Academy's participation in the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament held at Saipan Southern High School on Jan. 24, 2015:

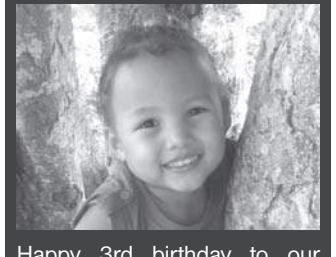
■ 1st Place: PO MA, Won Jun Kim
■ 1st Place: OO C, Amy Sim
■ 2nd Place: DI A, Rachel Palijo
■ 2nd Place: OO B, Jessica Choi
■ 2nd Place: PR MB, Jae Hyun Lee
■ 2nd Place: IMP B, Sonia Kim
■ 3rd Place: ST A, Rachel Palijo
■ 3rd Place: OO C, Shizuka Takayama
■ 4th Place: DI B, Emily An
■ 4th Place: OO B, Katrina Reyes
■ 4th Place: Lincoln Debate, Sonia Kim
■ 4th Place: PR MB, Shizuka Takayama
■ 4th Place: IMP B, Shizuka Takayama
■ 4th Place: IMP, Yong Koo Kim
■ 4th Place: COM, Yong Koo Kim
■ 4th Place: IX, Yong Koo Kim
■ 4th Place: USX, Won Jun Kim
■ 4th Place: HI A, Jae Hyun Lee
■ 5th Place: PO MB, Jae Hyun Lee
■ 5th Place: PO MA, Emily An
■ 5th Place: IMP B, Amy Sim

NJSDA Tournament results:

■ 1st Place: Lincoln Debate, Ian Cataluna
■ 1st Place: PO MC, Ian Cataluna
■ 1st Place: PO MB, Joshua Alfred
■ 1st Place: HI A, Won Kwan Kim
■ 1st Place: IMP E, Danielle Acosta
■ 1st Place: DUO C, Joshua Alfred
■ 1st Place: DUO C, Stephen Bartolo
■ 2nd Place: PR MB, Tina Choi
■ 2nd Place: IMP C, Tina Choi
■ 2nd Place: DI A, Won Kwan Kim
■ 2nd Place: PO MB, Minju Kang
■ 3rd Place: HI B, Minju Kang
■ 3rd Place: PO MB, Matt Moran
■ 3rd Place: IMP B, Seongbeom Song
■ 4th Place: Lincoln Debate, Tina Choi
■ 4th Place: PO MC, Jonah Pohl
■ 4th Place: IMP A, Yna Poquiz
■ 4th Place: DUO A, Ian Cataluna
■ 4th Place: DUO A, Matt Moran
■ 5th Place: PO MC, Stephen Bartolo
■ 5th Place: OO A, Gary Camacho
■ 5th Place: IMP E, Gaeun Yang
■ 5th Place: PO MA, Seongbeom Song

WINNERS ALL
Marianas Baptist Academy pastor and principal Ramiro Trinidad poses with the winners of the Forensic tournament held last Jan. 24, 2015, and their coaches, Ellen Alejo and Gospel Trinidad.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 3rd birthday to our sister, princess Keanalise Arianne! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come. We love you! Greetings come from Jylon, Aiyana, and Ardonn.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartmental transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United Stated of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP -15-001,Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation , temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The Islamic State is for real, but how best to fight it?

President Barack Obama's suggestion Wednesday that he would be amenable to "limited" deployment of U.S. ground troops to combat the so-called Islamic State signals a change of tone from the commander in chief that he may be starting to take the threat of the Islamist group more seriously than his previous rhetoric had suggested.

But consideration of deployment must be accompanied by a clear and systematic approach to military engagement, one that has yet to be articulated by the president. History teaches us that an armed conflict that ostensibly begins as limited all too often escalates. So it is unsurprising that many, if not most, Americans are wary of this nation slouching toward its third war in this young century.

To his credit, on Wednesday, Obama submitted to Congress a letter seeking formal authorization for using military force, rather than attempting to do so by presidential directive. This should prompt congressional debate on what ought to be done.

The Islamic State's army of about 31,500, according to a CIA estimate this past fall, "poses a threat to the people and stability of Iraq, Syria and the broader Middle East, and to U.S. national security," Obama warned.

But still, if there is to be war, if America's sons and daughters in uniform are to be ordered into battle yet again, Obama must begin to acknowledge the true threat of the Islamic State and its worldview, as well as whence it stems. Word choices matter.

Obama has dismissed many Islamic State atrocities as one-off terrorist attacks when, in fact, it is much more than a mere splinter group: It has a standing army. It controls significant land mass. And its forces have motivation to wage a global religious war.

It is not a group with which to trifle. The president must describe it as such, and address the challenge appropriately before the Islamic State gains additional strength and resources to wreak havoc more broadly. As of now, his signals are mixed.

Obama told lawmakers his draft AUMF would not authorize "long-term, large-scale ground operations," such as those undertaken by his predecessor in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

He also said he would deploy troops only under such circumstances as "rescue operations involving U.S. or coalition personnel" or "use of special operation forces" to take out the Islamic State leadership.

It remains to be seen whether Obama elicits the bipartisan support for his proposed AUMF that he seeks. In the meantime, we take comfort in the signals from Capitol Hill that neither Republicans nor Democrats will rubber-stamp the president's request to use force.

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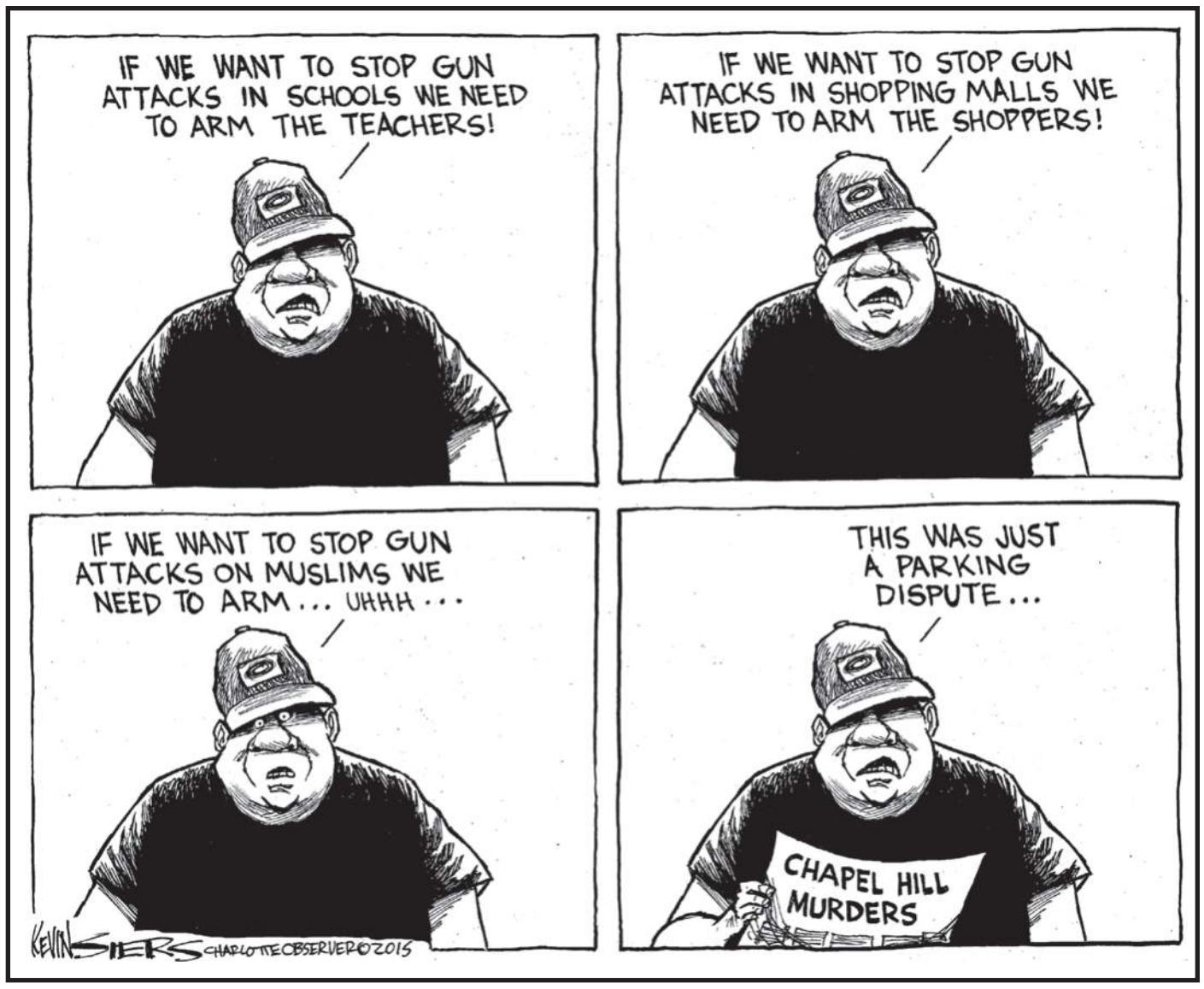
See ISLAMIC on Next Page


IF WE WANT TO STOP GUN ATTACKS IN SCHOOLS WE NEED TO ARM THE TEACHERS!
IF WE WANT TO STOP GUN ATTACKS IN SHOPPING MALLS WE NEED TO ARM THE SHOPPERS!
IF WE WANT TO STOP GUN ATTACKS ON MUSLIMS WE NEED TO ARM... UHHH...
THIS WAS JUST A PARKING DISPUTE...
CHAPEL HILL MURDERS
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2015

Economic freedom can alleviate energy poverty

By NICOLAS LORIS
The Heritage Foundation

Nicolas Loris is The Heritage Foundation's Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow. He wrote this for the Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

Almost every activity that improves our quality of live requires energy. We don't question how the lights stay on, or how groceries get to the stores where we need them. But it happens.

Without a doubt, the adage, "You don't know what ya got 'til it's gone" applies to energy. We get upset when our power goes out for an hour and we can't get on the Internet or watch TV. Or, much worse, we realize the importance of reliable energy when a major natural disaster hits and we can't power our schools and hospitals, keep our food from spoiling, and heat or cool our homes.

When Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, 2.6 million people were without power. Now multiply that by 500. That's how many people worldwide are without access to electricity every day. These 1.3 billion people don't know what it's like for it to be gone because they never had it. More than 2.5 billion people use animal waste, leaves, wood, and charcoal to cook their food and heat their homes.

Granted, each country faces its own challenges in obtaining affordable, reliable energy. So the solutions aren't tightly wrapped in a nice, neat package.

But the principles are. Whether we're talking about developing countries or developed ones, whether we're talking about renewable sources of energy or conventional ones, and whether a country is resource-rich or resource-deprived, the world can best meet its needs through free markets.

Policies that operate from the four pillars of economic freedom—rule of law, limited government, regulatory efficiency and open markets—do more than stimulate economic growth and innovation. They expand access to energy and improve the environment.

The United States has shown what can happen when you have open access to resources, private property rights, and opportunities for domestic and foreign investment. America has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources, and one of the main reasons the U.S. has become the world's largest oil and natural gas producer is the fact that private individuals own the subsurface mineral rights. The boom in shale oil and gas production is occurring on state and privately owned lands, not on federally owned lands where there is little incentive to effectively manage energy resources.

As a result, from 2007 to 2012, oil and gas jobs grew at a rate of 40 percent while the remaining private-sector jobs grew by 1 percent. Falling energy prices are helping families save money. And energy-intensive companies are coming to the United States, investing billions of dollars and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

By contrast, in many countries, land and mineral resources are state-owned, while entire supply chains of energy production are partially or fully government-owned.

Government-controlled energy companies still respond to the profit motive because it means more money and power. However, they don't have to make the same decisions as private companies because they face less competition and respond slowly to market forces. As a result, state-owned companies suffer from economic inefficiencies, reduced or zero foreign investment, higher rates of pollution, wasteful spending, less technological innovation, and aging infrastructure.

Further, by using oil profits to fund other sectors of the economy, governments divert resources that otherwise would be available to invest in new energy technologies or in new areas of exploration and development. For instance, over the past several decades Venezuela has poured billions of dollars from oil profits into social and military programs, leaving the country with an outdated and inefficient energy infrastructure.

Mexico, however, has adopted a series of reforms that allow for competition with the state-owned Pemex. These reforms will open up investment and competition for oil and gas production, refineries, power plants, and pipelines and enable it to upgrade existing energy infrastructure. As a direct result, the U.S. Energy Information Administration now projects that Mexico's oil production will stop its 10-year decline, level off, and eventually begin growing again.

Land-use laws are exceedingly complex all around the world, but enforceable property rights and open markets that are free from subsidies and cronyism are essential for energy and economic development in places such as Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Energy is a key building block for economic opportunity. That's why the policies governing its use need to be rooted in the principles of economic freedom. Governments that ignore those principles doom their citizens to lives of energy poverty.

Something to think about the next time you flip a switch or go to the grocery store.

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Taxing 'em

Lawmakers in Puerto Rico are debating a new and highly contentious bill that aims to impose a fine of up to $800 on parents of obese children in an attempt to curb obesity. Under the bill, schools would identify children who are obese and then recommend diet and exercise programs for them to lose weight. If there is no significant weight loss months later, parents can be fined $500 to $800.

The CNMI, just like Puerto Rico, has seen a high rate of obesity among children and adults. They say desperate times call for desperate measures, but the CNMI has not gone as far as holding parents accountable for their children's waistlines.

However, in 2012, a bill was introduced in the CNMI House of Representatives levying a "fat" and "sweet" tax of 5 percent on at least 30 types of foods, drinks and tobacco products that the author considered "unhealthy." The bill's goals were two-fold: Curb obesity and generate revenue to help repay the only government hospital's loans.

Numerous surveys and studies in the last decade alone confirm what the CNMI public already knows—that obesity is prevalent. In 2007, the Department of Public Health (now the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.) said 70 percent of adults in the CNMI are either overweight or obese.

A 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the Public School System found out that the percentage of students who are overweight slightly increased from 16.7 percent in the 2011 survey to 16.8 percent two years later.

Public health programs have been launched to stem obesity and promote a healthy lifestyle such as the Let's Move Marianas campaign and just recently, a program that recognizes restaurants on Saipan for serving healthy food. But it takes a lot more from the government and the general public to really make a dent on the weight problem and associated risks.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's "fat and sweet tax" bill during the 17th Legislature generated discussion and drew differing views from the health sector, the business sector and the general public, but it didn't pass the Legislature. The way the bill was written was problematic and not well thought out to begin with, particularly on the kinds of food deemed "unhealthy" including candies with coconuts, chocolates, ice cream and edible ice, malt beer, wine, soft drinks, animal and vegetable fats, peanut butter and paste and luncheon meat.

Taxing animal fats, for example, would include taxing every meat product brought into the CNMI, such as chicken leg quarters and ribs as all meats contain fat, a registered dietitian once said. This also would tax imported fresh or canned fish.

While health advocates themselves have reservations about the fat and sweet tax bill, they believe that the bill can still attain its public health goal by further reviewing the types of food and drinks it considers unhealthy and by taking public comments into consideration, among other things.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce in particular urged the Legislature at the time to reduce its size and spending by 50 percent and divert those funds to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. rather than imposing more taxes.

But two years later, the CNMI succeeded in gradually increasing cigarette tax over a three-year period to help curb smoking and raise funds for cancer treatment and related programs. Even the cigarette importers knew that smokers would still smoke despite the higher tax, although it would take some time to get used to the idea of paying more for the same habit.

Of the 36 bills introduced so far by the 19th Legislature, only at least one has to do with "health and revenue-generation," although some could argue that Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) bill to legalize marijuana use for medicinal purposes does not really address a pressing health issue.

Just like obesity and smoking, betel nut chewing is yet another public health issue that's taking a lifetime to fully address. Recent suggestions from the public include outlawing betel nut chewing. It takes a really strong political will and a tremendous public support to ban the chewing of betel nuts. But a good start perhaps is taxing betel nut, similar to taxing cigarettes and alcohol.

As far as other revenue-generating bills are concerned, House floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) revived his bill from the 17th Legislature which aims to tax laptops and other computers.

Camacho's House Bill 19-5 amends an existing law to remove the excise tax exemption for personal and office computers worth less than $5,000, and authorizes the Department of Finance secretary to classify new products for taxation purposes.

The author says the current tax exemption for these computers was originally intended to keep their prices affordable for consumers. But the daily use of computers has become a part of daily lives "that the abundance of such technology has allowed a significant reduction in costs compared to what it used to be." The author points out that the CNMI has been losing out on revenues that could have been generated from computer sales.

The 17th House passed Camacho's original bill but the 17th Senate's amendment to include a provision exempting tourists from the 30-percent gaming machine jackpot tax for winnings in licensed casinos didn't sit well with the House at the time.

There is no telling yet whether Camacho's resurrection of his original bill would pass both chambers this time around. What is certain is that the government, and the general public, cannot sit idly by while waiting for a $7.1-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan to be actually built as a result of the enactment of a casino law in 2014.

Actual integrated casino resort construction takes time and even if the project really gets off the ground, it's not the magic solution to all of the CNMI's problems including public health. Other revenue-generating bills besides anything to do with casinos—and cost-cutting measures—need to be pursued.

On the other hand, the CNMI already has many good revenue-generating laws and rules that are only waiting to be properly enforced. As an example, ensuring all stores and other business establishments issue sales receipts so that the government won't continue to lose out on this revenue leak.

If enforcing existing laws and rules still prove too difficult for the CNMI, then perhaps it could try to borrow ideas from, say Puerto Rico, to help ensure children's wellbeing and raise funds to fund health-related services.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years.*

The deep complexities of the West's relationship with Islam

Six days after the World Trade Center Towers crumbled onto the streets of Manhattan, President George W. Bush offered infrequently cited but significant remarks at the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C.

Seeking to pre-empt a possible backlash against American Muslims and to dispel fear and confusion among the populace, Bush delivered a powerful message: "The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace."

Those words could have just as easily come from his successor, President Barack Obama, who has become a frequent defender of Islam, even as Muslim extremist organizations have proliferated and accelerated their terrorist activities around the world.

Obama, like Bush before him, has a difficult job. Waging a war against violent Islamic extremism and condemning the ideology that inspires its perpetrators, without impugning the faith they share with millions of other innocent practitioners, requires a delicate balance.

Unfortunately, it's a balance Obama has yet to strike. For months, he and members of his administration have made pretzels of themselves trying to avoid any association between Islam and the violent acts of groups that proudly bear titles like the Islamic State.

Even frequent Obama administration defenders like New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman find such tortured language exasperating.

"I am all for restraint on the issue, and would never hold every Muslim accountable for the acts of a few. But it is not good for us or the Muslim world to pretend that this spreading jihadist violence isn't coming out of their faith community," he wrote shortly after the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris.

It's true that in order to effectively combat the terrorist threat the U.S. needs Muslim nations as allies, and alienating their religious sensibilities could threaten potential alliances. (Still, it's worth noting that even Egypt's Muslim president has been more bold and blunt about the dangers of Islamic extremism than Obama has dared to be.)

It's also true that pluralism is a distinctly American value and that respect for divergent faith practices is fundamental to who we are.

But the constant, blanket defense of Islam—whether for political expediency or political correctness—also requires the U.S. to ignore some harsh realities of the Muslim world that in other circumstances we would openly condemn as offensive, at the very least, or completely horrific.

"Sadly, large pluralities of Muslims in countries allied with the U.S. in the war on terror disavow the tactics of terrorism but endorse the aims of radical Islam," laments Bloomberg columnist Eli Lake.

The Pew Research Center has confirmed such sentiments in its polling of Muslims around the world.

For example, the belief that Sharia should be the country's official legal code and therefore extend to non-Muslims is widespread in the Middle East, particularly in Egypt, where 74 percent say it should apply to the entire population. Fifty-eight percent in Jordan hold this view.

When it comes to women, a majority of Muslim Iraqis said they supported "honor killings" of women who engage in premarital sex or adultery.

While a majority of Muslims worldwide reject religious extremism, substantial minorities in countries like Afghanistan (39 percent) and Egypt (29 percent) think violence against civilians is at least sometimes justified.

And lest we forget, in Saudi Arabia blogger Raif Badawi was recently sentenced to public flogging—50 times each week for 20 weeks—for insulting Islam.

None of these perspectives and practices comport with the views of Western society. But in failing to identify Islamic extremism as our enemy, we have chosen to uphold those perspectives and practices by default.

Even as we defend Islam, for both good and misplaced reasons, it's important that we do so with the full recognition of the values we are supporting.

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

ISLAMIC

From Page 11

Alcohol and caffeine take new, threatening forms

Powdered gelatin was invented in 1845, powdered fruit drink in 1928. Given the success of Jell-O and Kool-Aid, it's strange that it took this long for powdered alcohol to show up.

But "Palcohol" is soon to be on the market, joining another ill-advised product, powdered caffeine. Both are highly concentrated forms of legal substances that carry substantial health risks. Lawmakers should move to ban both.

The inventor of Jell-O, when applying for a patent, called his substance "portable gelatin." Similarly, the man behind Palcohol touts its portability and markets it like a health drink. "Palcohol is a boon to outdoors enthusiasts such as campers, hikers and others who wanted to enjoy adult beverages responsibly without the undue burden of carrying heavy bottles of liquid," the website says. (Have these people not heard about flasks?)

It's likely Palcohol will appeal more to teenagers and alcoholics than mountain climbers, who are more inclined to pack kale smoothies than bourbon and Coke. Its size and weight make it easy to hide; its portability screams potential for abuse.

Even worse is powdered caffeine, blamed for at least two deaths and dozens of hospitalizations for erratic heartbeat, seizures and vomiting. One teaspoon supplies the jolt of 25 cups of coffee. As a dietary supplement, powdered caffeine doesn't need Food and Drug Administration approval, but in December the agency asked consumers to shun it because of the danger of overdose.

Several U.S. senators recently asked the FDA to ban sales of powdered caffeine, and the agency wants consumers to report adverse reactions. Palcohol should be banned outright, as six states have already done.

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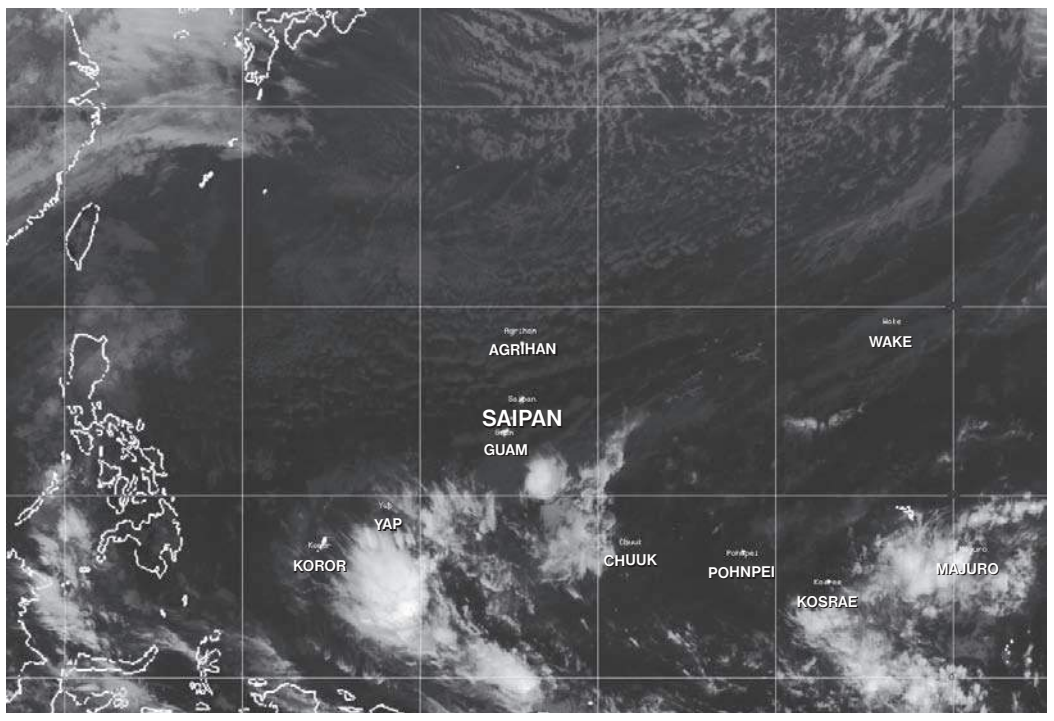
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N170E to Guam at 14N145E to near Yap at 10N137E then curves to end near Koror at 7N134E. Clouds and patchy showers are along and up to 350 miles northwest of the shear line. A cold front extends southwestward from 23N180 to southwest of Wake Island at 15N162E then continues as a shear line to end near 7N140E. Patchy clouds and isolated showers are near the cold front and the shear line except west of 150E there are scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A tropical disturbance southeast of Koror and Yap is centered near 2N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 150 miles of a line from 6N137E to EQ144E. Another tropical disturbance southeast of Kosrae centered at 3N168E is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 3N162E to EQ167E and across the Marshall Islands between 4N and 9N from 166E to 175E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼74
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲76	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼27
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80	▼65
London	Rain	▲47	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲81	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲73	▼61
Miami	Sunny	▲74	▼57
New York	Windy	▲21	▼ 4
Osaka	Showers	▲51	▼44
Paris	Rain	▲47	▼38
Pusan	Rain	▲54	▼37
Rome	Rain	▲52	▼48
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Seoul	Rain	▲44	▼33
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼39
Washington, DC	Windy	▲21	▼ 8

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:22 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:44 AM	3:32 PM
Tuesday	4:40 AM	4:33 PM
Wednesday	5:36 AM	5:36 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	7:21 AM	7:41 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

11th Tinian Pika Festival

Tinian Municipal Council member Reynaldo Cing, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his son, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio attend the opening ceremony of the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

Tinian's very own ranchers riding on their horses during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School JROTC perform after the opening ceremony.

Saint Joseph School's performance awes the crowd with their cute performance of Barbie and Ken.

A performer of Tom Hoshi's group shows a fierce performance with her Hawaiian dance moves.

One of the little contestants for the Umang race peeks over to see if his crab is ready to go.

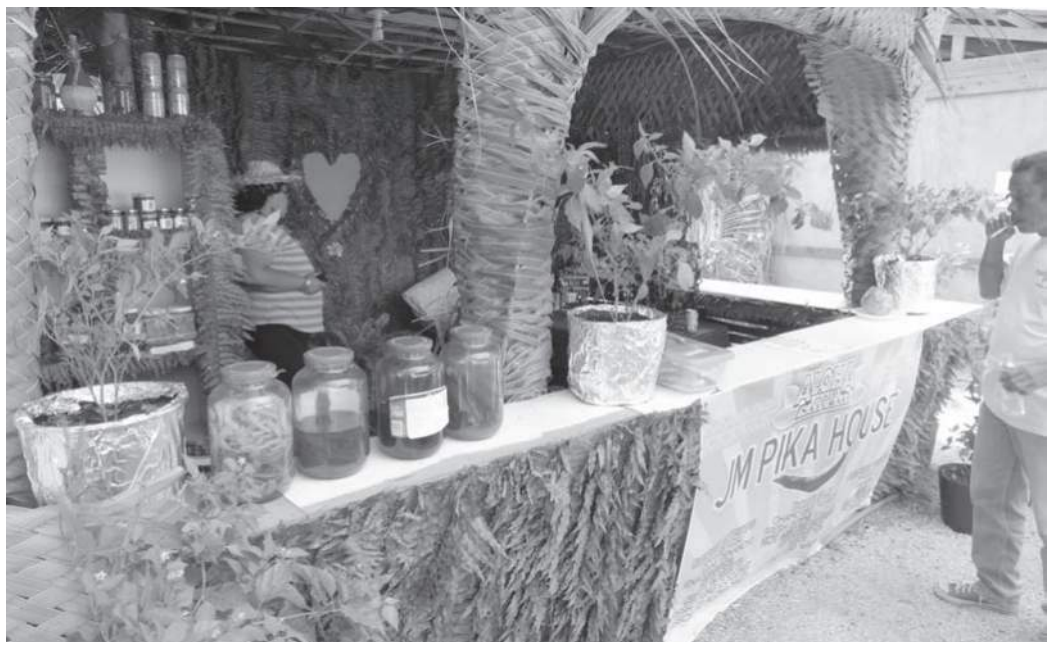
Heavenly Kids from Tinian Elementary School perform for Valentine's Day.

Contestants start cooking for the Estofao Pika Cooking Contest.

Sewing by Faith booth sold knitted mats and accessories at their booth during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

A little girl purchases from Tun Ben's booth during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

Neng's Booth is a booth favorite with its hot pepper decorations and local fruits.



JM Pika House booth showing its decoration for the booth contest at the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

DS Kitchen and Bar booth is all about bamboo on their decorations during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

JC's Café is popular among the young generation with its fast foods and well made smoothies.

Tinian's very own clothing apparel booth during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

Judging of the Estofao Pika Cooking Contest during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

Business

FAA seeking drone rules favorable to commercial operators

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is readying rules largely favorable to companies that want to use small drones for commercial purposes, according to a federal analysis, potentially leading to the widespread flights by unmanned aircraft performing aerial photography, crop monitoring, inspections of cell towers and bridges and other work.

An economic analysis by Federal Aviation Administration, which was inadvertently posted online, describes draft rules submitted by the agency in October to the White House budget office to review. In response to inquiries, the FAA said in a statement late Saturday that it will officially release the rules on Sunday.

The regulations would apply to drones weighing less than 55 pounds. They would improve safety by using small, lightweight unmanned aircraft instead of heavier, manned aircraft that "pose a higher level of risk," the analysis said. It notes that between 2004 and 2012, there were 95 fatalities involving climbers working on cell and other towers.

If the rules would prevent only one fatality by using a small drone instead of a tower climber, the $9.2 million saved—the amount the government says is the economic value of a single life—would exceed the entire cost of the regulations to society, according to the document.

AP
Ghost drones are displayed at an event with the Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Coalition, Tuesday, Jan. 2H0, 2015, at the National Press Club in Washington.

The analysis does not offer a total estimate on the annual economic benefit of regulations, but says it would exceed $100 million a year. For example, about 45,000 annual bridge inspections could be conducted with small drones. Most bridge inspections currently employ hydraulic mobile cranes called "snoopers." The average cost of an inspection using a snooper is $3,250. Cable bridge inspections are even more expensive because they often require a 200-foot aerial lift.

The Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, an industry trade association, estimates that small, commercial drones will create 70,000 jobs with an economic impact of more than $13.6 billion in the first three years after their integration into U.S. skies.

The analysis doesn't address jobs that might be displaced by drones, like some types of pilots.

The FAA currently bans all commercial drone flights except for those by a small number of companies that have been granted waivers. Congress has been leaning on the FAA to move faster on regulations that would allow a wide variety of companies to employ drones for everything from monitoring pipelines to delivering pizzas. Under a law passed in 2012, the FAA was to issue final regulations by September 2015, but that appears unlikely.

Even if the White House approves the FAA's proposal, the agency is still required to offer it for public comment. Tens of thousands of comments are anticipated, and it could take two to three years for the agency to address them before issuing final regulations.

The document indicates the agency has dropped its insistence that drone operators have the same licenses and medical certificates required for pilots of manned aircraft. Industry officials complained that obtaining a private pilot license or medical certificate would be unnecessarily burdensome.

Two apple types modified to resist browning receive federal approval

WASHINGTON (AP)—Don't expect to see them too soon, but they could be coming to your local grocery store—two types of apples genetically modified to resist turning brown after they're bruised or sliced.

The development could boost sales of apples for snacks, salads and other uses.

Arctic Golden and Arctic Granny Smith are being developed by a Canadian company, Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc. of Summerland, British Columbia.

The Agriculture Department gave its OK on Friday—saying the apples aren't likely to pose a plant pest risk and or have "a significant impact on the human environment."

The first Arctic apples are expected to be available in late 2016 in small, test-market quantities.

It takes apple trees several years to produce significant quantities, so it will take time before the genetically-modified apples are widely distributed.

"We can't wait until they're available for consumers," said the company's president and founder, Neal Carter.

Apples brown quickly after they are cut open and exposed to air. The browning-resistant varieties are considered especially desirable for use as pre-sliced apples, in fruit salad and salad bars, and in the manufacturing of juice.

The company said it is working on developing other browning-resistant apple varieties as well.

The nonprofit Center for Food Safety questioned whether browning-resistance will mask apples that no longer are fresh. The Environmental Working Group said the government's decision to allow marketing of the apples shows the need for mandatory, clear-labeling of genetically modified foods.

The Food and Drug Administration is not required to approve genetically engineered crops for consumption, but most companies will go through a voluntary safety review process with the FDA before they put them on the market.

In November, the department also approved commercial planting of a bruising-resistant potato.

Snag affecting health law sign-ups gets a fix

WASHINGTON (AP)—A technical problem that had been interfering with sign-ups for President Barack Obama's health care law has been fixed, officials say. Any consumer whose enrollment was hampered by the glitch will be provided with a special enrollment period.

The problem popped up the day before a Sunday deadline to sign up for subsidized private health insurance. It had been intermittent, meaning some people were able to complete their applications and submit them, Health and Human Service Department spokeswoman Katie Hill said.

By Saturday night, the problem had been resolved, Hill said in a statement. Consumers affected by the problem should log in to their Marketplace account and click on their 2015 application to finish it and complete their enrollment for health coverage, she said.

Some people trying to get coverage hadn't been able to get their income information electronically verified. That's crucial because the amount of financial assistance to help pay premiums is based on people's income.

The health care law offers health insurance to people who don't have coverage on the job. More than 8 in 10 of those who apply qualify for help. Without it, most can't afford the coverage.

The IRS handles income verification for the HealthCare.gov website. In a statement, Hill said the problem was due to issues with "external verification sources."

The glitch seemed to affect people with new applications. People who previously submitted their income details—but hadn't completed the final step of picking a plan—were still able to do so.

The technical problems tied up some consumers who'd come out Saturday to an enrollment event in the central Illinois city of Jacksonville.

Republicans say Obama giving immigrants 'amnesty bonuses'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of immigrants benefiting from President Barack Obama's executive actions could get a windfall from the IRS, a reversal of fortune after years of paying taxes to help fund government programs they were banned from receiving.

Armed with new Social Security numbers, many of these immigrants who were living in the U.S. illegally will now be able to claim up to four years' worth of tax credits designed to benefit the working poor. For big families, that's a maximum of nearly $24,000, as long as they can document their earnings during those years.

Some Republicans are labeling the payments "amnesty bonuses," one more reason they oppose Obama's program shielding millions of immigrants from deportation.

"I represent hard working, law-biding Texans," said Rep. Sam Johnson, a senior Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee. "I think these amnesty rewards, and that's what they are, need to be stopped."

Advocates argue that many of these immigrants pay taxes, so they should be able to claim the same tax credits as anybody else. Over the past decade, immigrants in the U.S. illegally have paid an estimated $100 billion in Social Security payroll taxes, even though few will ever be able to collect benefits, said Stephen Goss, Social Security's chief actuary.

Obama has issued executive orders shielding about 4 million immigrants from deportation. Some were brought to the U.S. as children; others are parents of children who are either U.S. citizens or legal residents.

Republicans in Congress oppose Obama's actions and are trying to use a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security to overturn them. Democrats are resisting, resulting in a stalemate that is threatening to shut down the department.

Funding for the department, which oversees immigration enforcement, runs out Feb. 27.

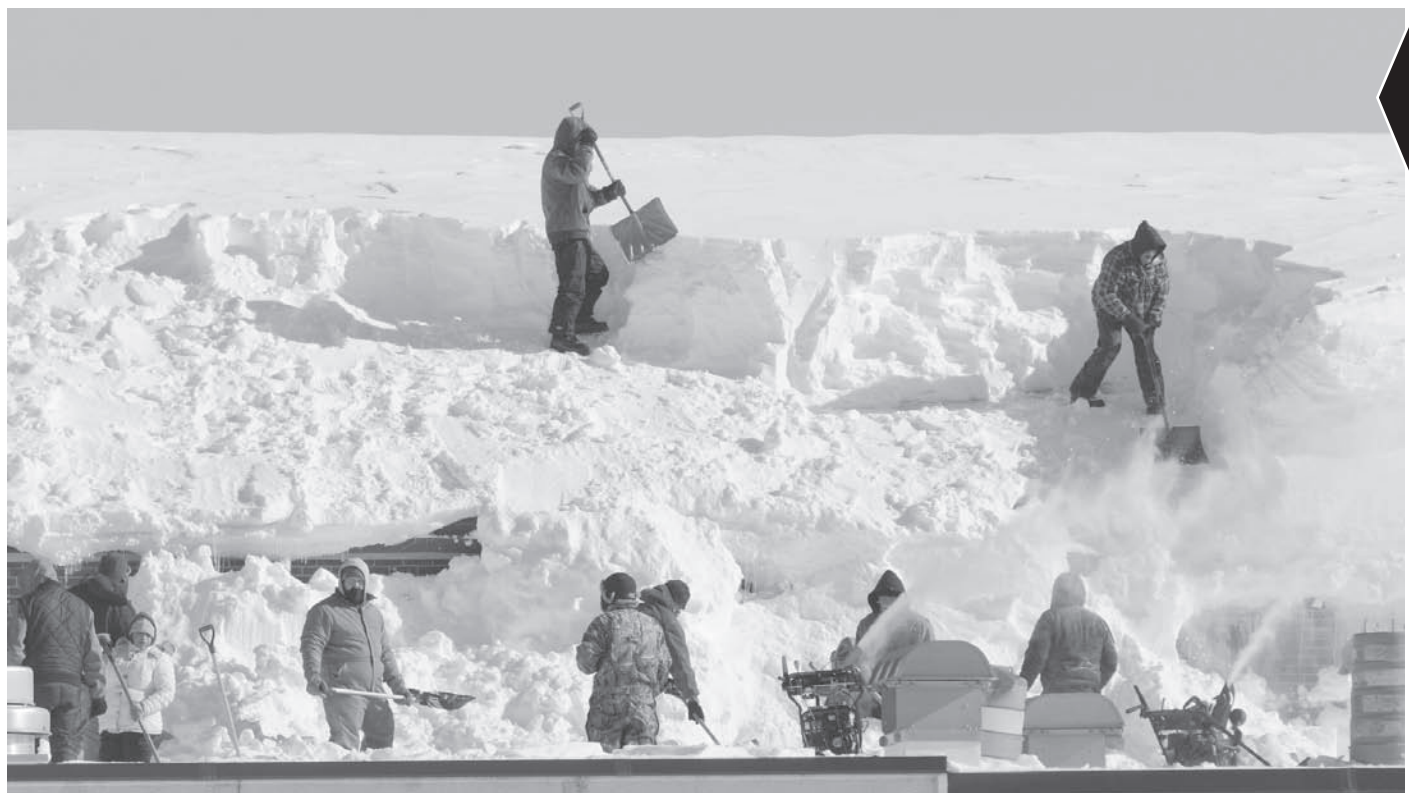
The dispute over tax credits illustrates the complicated relationship that many immigrants have with the U.S. tax system. Social Security estimates that immigrants living in the country illegally work at about the same rate as the rest of the population, even though federal law bars them from employment.

In general, they are less likely to pay federal taxes. Those who do have been boosting Social Security's finances for years.

How does Social Security know when it receives taxes from immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally? There is no foolproof method, Goss said. One way is by tracking reported wages in which the Social Security number does not match the name the agency has on file.

Nation

Not again! Another storm blankets winter-weary New England



AP
Workers remove snow from the roof over the gym at Haverhill High School as the region braces for another big snowstorm, Friday, Feb. 13, 2015 in Haverhill, Mass.

BOSTON (AP)—Snow and dangerously high winds roared into New England for the fourth time in less than a month, the latest blow to a region that has already seen more than 6 feet of snow in some areas.

A blizzard warning was in effect for coastal areas from Connecticut to Maine through Monday morning, promising 8 to 14 inches in southern New England and up to 2 feet in Maine. A bone-chilling blast of cold will follow, with lows of minus 10 degrees forecast in some areas Sunday night.

National Weather Service meteorologist William Babcock said road conditions will be dangerous as steady, widespread winds whip the relatively dry snow around.

"On Sunday, the best thing people can do is stay home, stay indoors," he said.

Babcock said gusts could max out at 75 mph—hurricane territory—on Cape Cod. Officials warned of possible power outages, and north-facing or vulnerable coastal areas could suffer flooding and beach erosion, the National Weather Service said.

The bad weather spanned several states—winter storm warnings extended west into Michigan and Ohio, where whiteout conditions led to a pileup on the Ohio Turnpike that killed at least two people. Another crash involving several tractor-trailers was reported on Interstate 70 just west of Columbus, and a storm-related crash on the New York Thruway south of Buffalo killed one person.

In New England, transportation officials took many precautions. Nearly 400 Sunday flights were already canceled at Boston's Logan International Airport, and none was scheduled Sunday morning. And the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority canceled all rail, bus and ferry service in the Boston area on Sunday.

Gov. Charlie Baker urged motorists to stay off roads during the storm, but he stopped short of an outright travel ban. He said Saturday people probably had until midnight for storm preparations or Valentine's Day celebrations.

"It's a Cinderella evening to enjoy your loved ones," he said.

In Boston's Financial District, Carlos Stein, the beverage manager of The Palm steakhouse, said Saturday night that business hadn't suffered that much so far.

"We have a lot of people arriving late, but they're all showing up," Stein said. "It looks really bad outside, very windy, but the roads aren't that bad yet."

Crews worked urgently to remove the massive amounts of snow that clogged streets and triggered numerous roof collapses.

"They've been doing a great job as far as sort of removing the snow and relocating the snow to make it look like it's less, but it's piled up everywhere," said John Barry, general manager of Kelly's Roast Beef in Revere, on Boston's North Shore. He said the recent tough weather has hurt business, but the restaurant has gotten traffic from snow plow drivers, emergency personnel and "people sort of venturing out to check out the weather."

Bisexuals hopeful as 1 of their own becomes a governor

NEW YORK (AP)—"LGBT" has become a household term amid sweeping advances for gay rights, and yet the "B" sometimes seems like an awkward fit. The sudden advent of America's first openly bisexual governor may provide a chance to ease the awkwardness and broaden understanding of the bi community.

Kate Brown, Oregon's secretary of state, is in line to replace Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber when he steps down Wednesday amid an ethics scandal. Brown, serving her second term after many years in the legislature, lives in Portland with her husband and two stepchildren and has been open throughout her political career about being bisexual.

Brown

Her progress has been followed closely by bisexual activists across the country, including Ellyn Ruthstrom, who now serves on the board of Boston-based Bisexual Resource Center after 10 years as its president.

"There are so few bi political leaders out there, so we pay attention to them," said Ruthstrom, citing U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona as the other prominent example.

Beyond elective politics, the bi community continues to struggle to establish its appropriate place in the broader civil rights campaigns being waged on behalf of lesbians, gays and transgender people.

Within that movement, there was widespread animosity toward bisexuals a couple of decades ago, Ruthstrom said. "Now it's not as overt, but there are still issues."

She cited a phenomenon known as "bi-erasure"—in which bisexuals are not mentioned in speeches, press releases and news reports that refer to the LGT groups.

Ruthstrom said she and her allies have been lobbying major LGBT-rights groups to be fully inclusive of the bisexual community's issues. "They're missing an opportunity to engage," she said, citing research indicating that bisexuals make up about half of the total LGBT population.

Gary Gates, a demographer at the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, estimated in 2011 that about 1.8 percent of the adult population, or a little more than 4 million Americans, identifies as bisexual—slightly more than the number identifying as gay or lesbian.

Study: Oklahoma's daily small quakes raise risk of big ones

SAN JOSE, California (AP)—Small earthquakes shaking Oklahoma and southern Kansas daily and linked to energy drilling are dramatically increasing the chance of bigger and dangerous quakes, federal research indicates.

This once stable region is now just as likely to see serious damaging and potentially harmful earthquakes as the highest risk places east of the Rockies such as New Madrid, Missouri, and Charleston, South Carolina, which had major quakes in the past two centuries.

Still it's a low risk, about a 1 in 2,500 years' chance of happening, according to geophysicist William Ellsworth of the U.S. Geological Survey.

"To some degree we've dodged a bullet in Oklahoma," Ellsworth said after a presentation to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

But, he added, "This is not to say we expect a large earthquake tomorrow."

During the 90-minute session on human-induced earthquakes, three quakes larger than 3.1 magnitude hit northern Oklahoma. Federal records show that since Jan. 1, Oklahoma has had nearly 200 quakes that people have felt. These quakes started to increase in 2008 and made dramatic jumps in frequency in June 2013 and again in February 2014, Ellsworth said.

They are mostly in areas with energy drilling, often hydraulic fracturing, a process known as fracking. Many studies have linked the increase in small quakes to the process of injecting wastewater deep underground because it changes pressure and triggers dormant faults.

Until now, those quakes were mostly thought of as nuisances and not really threats. But Ellsworth's continuing study, which is not yet published, showed the mere increase In the number of tiny temblors raises the risk of earthquakes that scientists consider major hazards. That's generally above a magnitude 5 with older buildings and a magnitude 6 for modern ones, Ellsworth said.

"The more small earthquakes we have it just simply increases the odds we're going to have a more damaging event," Ellsworth said.

A 2011 earthquake in Prague, Oklahoma, was a 5.7 magnitude, causing some damage and hurting two people. Some studies said that was a side effect of the drilling process, but other scientists are not convinced.

Experts at the science session said Ellsworth's finding of a higher risk for big quakes makes sense.

"We are worried about this, no question about it," said Rex Buchanan, interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey.

Not all states with fracking and wastewater injections are seeing increased quakes and not all those with increased quakes, such as Texas and Ohio, are at a higher risk for major quakes, Ellsworth said. Arkansas and Ohio, for example, are also now seeing fewer man-made quakes, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Missouri man enlists former deputies in murder case appeal

BONNE TERRE, Mo. (AP)—A southern Missouri man appealing his conviction in a live-in girlfriend's murder has enlisted some unusual character witnesses: former sheriff's deputies who testified that they planned to arrest another suspect for the crime. Donald "Doc" Nash, 72, was convicted of murder in 2009 in the 1982 slaying of his girlfriend, Judy Lynn Spencer, and is serving a life prison sentence without the chance for parole. The killing remained unsolved until new DNA evidence linked Nash to Spencer, a 21-year-old Salem hospital receptionist who was strangled with her shoelace and then shot. The case against Nash, a retired union foreman, relied primarily on minute traces of his DNA that were found beneath Spencer's fingernails. Nash's lawyers argue that this is typical for couples living together. There were no eyewitnesses and was no other physical evidence linking Nash to Spencer's death.

3 dead, 2 taken to hospital in crash on Hawaii's Big Island

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP)—Authorities say three people are dead after a fiery crash in Kailua-Kona. Hawaii County police say a Kia sport utility vehicle traveling south and a Nissan pickup truck traveling north crashed into each other early Saturday on Queen Kaahumanu Highway. Police say the man driving the Kia and two passengers died at the scene. A 17-year-old passenger was able to escape the burning Kia. She was taken Kona Community Hospital. The driver of the truck was taken to the same hospital. West Hawaii Today reports the Jaws of Life were required to extricate him from the truck.

Hundreds protest police shooting in Washington state

PASCO, Wash. (AP)—Hundreds gathered in southeastern Washington on Saturday to protest police brutality in the wake of a deadly shooting of a man who had been throwing rocks at the police. Before the midday rally, children and adults hand-lettered signs, calling for justice for Antonio Zambrano-Montes, who witnesses say was running away when police fired on him Tuesday in a busy intersection. A large sign hanging over the bandstand at Volunteer Park said, "Stop Police Brutality: It was just a rock!!!" Hand-lettered signs said, "Use Your Training, Not Guns," and "Good Police We Respect You."

Asia

HK ferry captain convicted in 2012 collision

AP

In this Oct. 2, 2012 file photo, rescuers check on a half submerged boat after it collided near Lamma Island, off the southwestern coast of Hong Kong.

HONG KONG (AP)—The captain of a Hong Kong commuter ferry that collided with another boat in 2012, killing 39 people, was found guilty of manslaughter on Saturday, local media reported.

A nine-member jury also found Lai Sai-ming guilty of endangering the safety of others at sea, in what was Hong Kong's biggest maritime tragedy in decades, the South China Morning Post newspaper and Radio Television Hong Kong said.

The same jury found the captain of the other, smaller boat, Chow Chi-wai, innocent of manslaughter but guilty of endangering the safety of others at sea. All of those killed, including eight children, and most of the nearly 100 injured in the collision were aboard his boat.

The two captains had blamed each other for the Oct. 1, 2012, collision, which left this highly organized and overwhelmingly safe southern Chinese city traumatized.

The verdicts came down after a 60-day trial and four days of deliberations.

India to resume talks with Pakistan after 6-month hiatus

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is sending its top foreign ministry official to Pakistan to resume talks after a six-month hiatus.

Taking advantage of the Cricket World Cup, where their teams play this weekend, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted Friday he spoke to his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif on the phone and offered to further strengthen ties.

Sharif welcomed the Indian official's proposed visit to Pakistan "to discuss all issues of common interest," Sharif's press secretary said in a statement in Islamabad. No dates have been announced for the visit.

Modi also said he spoke to leaders of some of India's other neighbors—Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan—all cricket-mad nations participating in the sports competition being jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

"Conveyed my best wishes for the Cricket World Cup," Modi said.

India's Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar is also scheduled to visit Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan apart from Pakistan, Modi said.

Last August, India called off talks with Pakistan after its ambassador in New Delhi met with Kashmiri separatist leaders, saying the Pakistani official could either talk with India, or talk with the rebels.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Building collapses, killing 13 people in north India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—A building that was under construction in a north Indian town collapsed overnight, killing 13 members of a family of weavers who were sleeping on the ground floor, police said Sunday. Three people escaped unhurt when the partially built first floor crashed down in the town of Mughalsarai, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) southeast of Uttar Pradesh's state capital of Lucknow. "People were buried alive" when the building came down, police Superintendent Chandauli Muniraj said. Two people were taken to a hospital, but one died, raising the death toll to 13. The victims included the building's owner, Mohammad Kamarrudin, and members of his family, including two children under 8 years old, Muniraj said.

Myanmar troops recover bodies of 13 rebels in renewed clash

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar troops fighting ethnic rebels near the Chinese border have recovered the bodies of 13 insurgents and captured eight others following heavy government losses this week, state media reported Sunday. The clashes are some of the fiercest in the country in two years and threaten to derail efforts of a nominally civilian government to sign a nationwide cease-fire with more than a dozen rebel groups that have been fighting for self-rule for decades. According to Myanma Ahlin daily on Sunday, troops found 13 bodies, captured eight seriously wounded rebels and seized 98 weapons. As many as 47 soldiers were killed and more than 70 wounded earlier this week in fighting that involved airstrikes on rebel positions near Laukkai, capital of the self-administered Kokang zone. The region is about 800 kilometers (500 miles) northeast of the country's biggest city, Yangon.

China orders heightened travel safety after deadly stampede

BEIJING (AP)—China has ordered stepped-up safety measures over the Lunar New Year travel rush in the wake of terrorist threats and a December stampede in Shanghai that killed 36 people. The government estimates about 2.8 billion trips will be made by train, bus, plane and car during the 40-day travel rush that began in early February and ends around March 15. While the travel peak is always hectic, special measures have been put in place this year, including the posting of more armed security guards, restricted access to crowded areas such as train platforms and the stationing of watchmen on elevated posts to keep an eye out for trouble. A circular from China's Cabinet posted Saturday demanded greater attention to safety and threatened punishment for officials found lacking in their duties.

World

Police kill man believed behind two shootings in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Danish police say a man they shot and killed early Sunday was likely behind the shooting attacks at a free speech event and a synagogue in Copenhagen.

Investigator Joergen Skov says the preliminary investigation says nothing that suggests that there were other gunmen involving in the shootings that left two people dead and five police officers wounded.

The shooting at a free speech event featuring an artist who had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad and a second shooting hours later outside a synagogue left two dead and five police officers wounded in Copenhagen, stirring fears that another terror spree was underway in a European capital a month after 17 people were killed in Paris attacks.

Police couldn't say whether the shootings at a cultural center Saturday afternoon and in front of the synagogue early Sunday were connected, but didn't rule it out. In both shootings, the gunman got away.

"We are looking for two perpetrators," police spokesman Allan Wadsworth-Hansen told reporters.

Two hours later, police announced they had shot and killed a man who shot at them near a train station and were investigating whether he could be linked to the two shootings. The police statement posted online says the shooting occurred after they had put an address near the train station under observation. The statement said no police officers were wounded.

The first shooting happened shortly before 4 p.m. Saturday. Danish police said the gunman used an automatic weapon to shoot through the windows of the Krudttoenden cultural center during a panel discussion on freedom of expression following the Paris attacks. A 55-year-old man attending the event was killed, while three police officers were wounded. Two belonged to the Danish security service PET, which said the circumstances surrounding the shooting "indicate that we are talking about a terror attack."

Both sides claim violations after Ukraine cease-fire starts

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—A cease-fire was declared in eastern Ukraine at a minute after midnight Sunday, kindling slender hopes of a reprieve from a conflict that has claimed more than 5,300 lives.

But within two hours of the cease-fire's scheduled start, the warring sides were already trading accusations of fresh attacks.

International attention will be focused in the coming days on the strategic railway hub of Debaltseve, where Ukrainian government forces have for weeks been fending off severe onslaughts from pro-Russian separatists.

The U.S. State Department said images from eastern Ukraine offer "credible pieces of evidence" that the Russian military has deployed larger amounts of artillery and multiple rocket launchers around Debaltseve to shell Ukrainian forces.

"We are confident that these are Russian military, not separatist systems," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement Saturday.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko issued a cease-fire order in a live broadcast for all the country's armed forces to hold their fire from one minute after midnight Kiev time (2201 GMT, 5:01 p.m. EST).

Accusations of violations were quick to follow.

Ukrainian security services chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said one infringement was reported about 50 minutes after the deadline. Artillery salvoes were fired from an area that Nalyvaichenko said is under the control of a Cossack unit manned by Russian citizens.

Meanwhile, rebels accused the Ukrainians of deploying artillery shortly after midnight.

Donetsk News Agency, a separatist mouthpiece, cited senior rebel defense official Eduard Basurin as saying the Ukrainian forces garrisoned in Debaltseve fired artillery and mortars at rebel positions.

"In the interests of preventing the death of the civilian population, precise fire is being deployed toward the enemy's positions," Basurin was cited as saying.

The hours before the cease-fire were marked by ferocious battles around Debaltseve, as Ukrainian armed forces undertook desperate attempts to gain control over a highway linking the town to their rearguard.

Nigerian military repels Boko Haram attack on northeast town

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's military Saturday repelled an attack on a northeastern town by Boko Haram Islamic extremists who, as they retreated, warned residents not to participate in the country's elections in March.

Two air force jets joined soldiers in attacking the rebels after they assaulted Gombe in the morning.

The Boko Haram fighters left in a convoy of vehicles carrying dozens of corpses, according to residents.

"They were heard telling our people in the villages leading to Gombe that they have not come to harm civilians but the security agents. They were also dropping copies of papers with messages written in Hausa warning people not to participate in the coming elections, lest they risk being killed," said resident Malam Hassan.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the message in which Boko Haram warned that its fighters will attack all polling stations in the March 28 elections. The Boko Haram paper also said residents should not assist the army and pledged not to attack those who stayed out of its fight against the government.

"We are calling on you all to come and join us in the Jihad and embrace Islamic Sharia jurisprudence," said the papers dropped by Boko Haram.

The fiercest fighting was about three kilometers (two miles) outside the town, resident Jummai Aliyu said.

Gombe has previously been attacked multiple times, including by a car bomb in December that killed at least 20 people.

Boko Haram's Islamic extremist insurgency killed 10,000 people last year compared to 2,000 in the four previous years, according to the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. Fighting has forced some 157,000 people to seek refuge in Niger, while 40,000 others have gone to Cameroon and 17,000 are in Chad, according to the United Nations.

On Friday, the group staged its first attack on Chadian territory, bringing to three the number of neighboring countries roped into what had previously been an internal Nigerian conflict. The targeted village, Ngouboua, was already home to nearly 3,300 refugees who had fled Boko Haram-related violence in Nigeria, according to the U.N.

Health & Fitness

Vaccine opposition has ebbed and flowed over centuries

NEW YORK (AP)—They're considered one of mankind's greatest medical achievements, yet people have balked at vaccines almost since the time of the first vaccination—in 1796, when an English country doctor named Edward Jenner inoculated an 8-year-old boy against smallpox.

In the mid-1800s, people protested in the streets of Victorian England after the British government began requiring citizens to get the vaccination. Many opponents mistrusted doctors and were wary of a medical treatment they didn't understand. In the early days, the closely related cowpox virus was used to immunize people against smallpox.

"People were afraid that if you got the cowpox vaccine you would turn into a cow," said Dr. Paul Offit, a vaccine researcher at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia who is an outspoken critic of anti-vaccination groups.

More than a century and a half later, there's still an undercurrent of vaccine dislike and distrust in the United States as illustrated by the measles outbreak that started in December at Disneyland—likely brought in from overseas as has been the case in recent years. Many of those who got and spread the highly contagious illness hadn't gotten the childhood shots.

All this despite medical science's proven successes in wiping out not only the much-feared smallpox and polio, but nearly eliminating other serious illnesses like diphtheria, German measles, lockjaw and mumps in the United States. Through it all, anti-vaccine sentiments have ebbed and flowed.

"It is fair to say that for as long as we've had vaccines, governments have worked to promote those vaccines—and segments of the population have resisted," said Jason Schwartz, a medical historian who studies vaccine policy at Princeton University.

In the U.S., opposition to vaccines was most intense in the late 1800s and early 1900s, said Susan Lederer, chair of medical history and bioethics at the University of Wisconsin.

That's when organizations like the Anti-Vaccination League of America and the American Medical Liberty League led the charge. Some used photos depicting vaccinated children with scars and missing limbs and eyes, claiming immunizations were to blame.

"For a long time in history, people treated anti-vaxers as irrational and anti-progress—kind of a lunatic fringe. But there were good reasons to be leery of vaccines" back then, she said.

Vaccines sold at the time were unregulated, and many were not only ineffective but also risky because of how they were made or given. Some were not sterile and infected children with other germs, like tetanus.

But opposition faded. Legal challenges to school-attendance vaccination laws were shot down by the U.S. Supreme Court. Vaccine makers came under more federal regulation, and the shots were better and safer. And some of the richest and most influential opponents died off.

By the end of the 1930s, resistance had declined dramatically. And by the 1950s, the pendulum had swung. Medical science was widely respected, doctors were considered sages, and one of the nation's greatest heroes was Dr. Jonas Salk—inventor of the polio vaccine.

Polio—a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease—terrified the nation. In the early 1950s, outbreaks caused more than 15,000 cases of paralysis each year.

When researchers in 1955 showed Salk's vaccine worked, the news spurred jubilation. One medical leader pleaded with adults not to grab the limited doses of the vaccine.

"Give the children priority," begged Dr. Dwight Murray, chairman of the American Medical Association's board of trustees.

Enthusiasm for the polio vaccine persisted even after news surfaced—only weeks later—that some early batches had caused polio in children.

"If something similar happened today, it's hard to imagine a vaccination program going forward," Princeton's Schwartz said.

The anti-vaccine movement overall kept a fairly low profile until 1998, when a British medical journal published a now discredited study in which researcher Andrew Wakefield and his colleagues suggested a link between the combination measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autism.

It was a small series of observations in just a dozen children, not a full medical study. But it exploded in the media, and resulted in a big drop in immunization rates in Britain. The effect was not nearly as dramatic in the U.S., but researchers estimate that as many as 125,000 children born in the late 1990s did not get the shots because of the report.

The United States then was on the verge of seeing the end of "homegrown" measles—health officials declared that goal accomplished in 2000. Still, the Wakefield study knocked even prominent U.S. vaccine experts off balance and emboldened vaccine skeptics and some legislators to raise alarms about vaccines. The years 1998 and 1999 marked a low point for those who championed vaccines, Schwartz said.

Researchers test device to help deaf children detect sounds

AP

In this photo taken Feb. 11, 2015, Angelica Lopez, 3, writes her name with the help of her father, Santos Lopez, during a therapy session at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Angelica was born deaf and received an auditory brainstem implant to allow her to hear some sounds as part of a research study into the devices' use in young children. U.S. researchers are implanting a device on the brain stems of a small number of deaf children to see if it will help them learn to hear. The studies are aimed at children who don't have working hearing nerves and thus don't qualify for a more common technology, cochlear implants. The implants stimulate brain cells that those nerves normally target.

WASHINGTON (AP)—At age 3, Angelica Lopez is helping to break a sound barrier for deaf children.

Born without working auditory nerves, she can detect sounds for the first time—and start to mimic them—after undergoing brain surgery to implant a device that bypasses missing wiring in her inner ears.

Angelica is one of a small number of U.S. children who are testing what's called an auditory brainstem implant, or ABI. The device goes beyond cochlear implants that have brought hearing to many deaf children but that don't work for tots who lack their hearing nerve.

When the ABI is first turned on, "she isn't going to be hearing like a 3-year-old. She'll be hearing like a newborn," audiologist Laurie Eisenberg of the University of Southern California tells parents. She outlined the research Friday at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The children don't magically understand and use those sounds. "It's going to take a lot of work," Eisenberg cautioned.

Angelica cried when her ABI first was switched on, scared by the sounds. But five months later, her mother says the youngster uses sign language to identify some sounds—that was a cough, that's a dog barking. And she's beginning to babble like hearing babies do, as therapists work to teach her oral speech.

"It's just so awesome to hear her little voice," said Julie Lopez of Big Spring, Texas, who enrolled her daughter in the study at USC, where researchers say she's progressing well.

Many children born deaf benefit from cochlear implants, electrodes that send impulses to the auditory nerve, where they're relayed to the brain and recognized as sound. But the small fraction born without a working hearing nerve can't make that brain connection.

The ABI attempts to fill that gap by delivering electrical stimulation directly to the neurons on the brainstem the nerve normally would have targeted. Here's how it works: The person wears a microphone on the ear to detect sound, and a processer changes it to electrical signals. Those are beamed to a stimulator under the skin, which sends the signals snaking through a wire to electrodes surgically placed on the brainstem.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the device in 2000 specifically for adults and teenagers whose hearing nerves had been destroyed by surgery for a rare type of tumor. It doesn't restore normal hearing, but can help to varying degrees.

Then about a decade ago, an Italian surgeon started trying the ABI in deaf children, whose younger brains are more flexible and might better adapt to this artificial way of delivering sound.

Now, spurred by some successes abroad, the first U.S. studies in young children are underway at a handful of hospitals. Hearing specialists are watching the work closely.

Personal Trainer
Too much of a good thing
The dangers of dehydration, such as fainting and heat-related illness, are well known, but drinking too much water can also be risky.
Hyponatremia
Drinking so much water that blood becomes diluted, its sodium level drops
Usual pattern: Person exercises 4 hours or more, drinks water heavily, does not consume salt
Symptoms in a life-threatening case
• Seizure • Respiratory arrest
How to play it safe
USA Track & Field's guidelines
for people running for several hours
Drink water or electrolyte sports drink if you feel thirsty
8-10 oz. (250-300 ml) of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes while exercising
Eat salted food or drink electrolyte beverage to maintain salt level
Avoid salt tablets; they dissolve slowly, irritate stomach
Do not take ephedra, which can increase risk of heat-related illness
Do not take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for 24 hours before race or less than 6 hours afterward
Source: Men's Fitness, USA Track & Field
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Recording Academy concert honors Stevie Wonder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When the Grammys throw a post-awards party to honor Stevie Wonder, just about everybody shows up.

That's as it should be for Wonder, 64, who wanted the artists honoring him at a tribute concert to be a "wide spectrum" that reflected the array of music he's created in his remarkable career.

He got his wish. "Stevie Wonder: Songs in the Key of Life—An All-Star Grammy Salute," airing Monday on CBS (9-11 p.m. EST), includes performances by Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Pharrell, Annie Lennox, Ed Sheeran, Tony Bennett, Babyface and Andrea Bocelli.

In a phone interview before the concert last Tuesday, Wonder talked about social justice, fairness for artists and a new album, "Through the Eyes of Wonder," he plans to release by September.

Providing occasional background music: His 2-year-old daughter issuing a request for apple juice and offering a bubbly, "Hi, daddy!" to her celebrated parent.

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015 file photo, Stevie Wonder takes in applause from the stage during the finale of "Stevie Wonder: Songs in the Key of Life - An All-Star Grammy Salute," at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live in Los Angeles. The show will air 9-11 p.m. EST Monday, Feb. 16, 2015, on CBS.

AP: What does the Recording Academy's tribute mean to you after many other accolades?

Wonder: I feel thankful to God, first and foremost, allowing me to enjoy this 'smell the roses' kind of thing. All I ever wanted to do was music, and all I've ever asked, as I've gotten to know and discover the world more, is that God would use me in any way to encourage and inspire love and inspire people to bring and give love to each other. ... I've always asked to be able to speak and write about injustice and to do it in a way that would encourage people to make things better for everyone.

AP: Given the protests after police shootings in Ferguson, Missouri, and other cities, do you see progress?

Wonder: We're stuck in fear and in not wanting to cross that most important bridge of understanding that we're more alike or not. We all cry, we all laugh. ... We know the things that are not good and are right. Those things that we know are wrong, we've got to fix them.

AP: What is the fear you refer to?

Wonder: Living in the zone of 'I've got to make sure I've got more.' ... We have to want the same thing. I've got to want the same thing for your son or daughter I would want for mine. I've got to make sure that your son is as educated as mine, or vice versa. We've got to make sure we all live in communities that are safe. We've all got to feel there's a non-existence of 'driving while black,' 'driving while brown,' 'walking while black.' ... We want to see equality.

AP: Will songs on your new album address these concerns?

Wonder: Since the last album I did was about 10 years ago, a lot has happened. I'm hoping to show what I've seen and I'm hoping it will encourage people to move to the next level that will give us a place of positivity. How long have we been talking about the planet and what we've got to do? The fact that we've had the tragedy (in Newton, Connecticut), that's a wake-up call. ... We've got to have fewer people be silent and do something by their actions, by how they vote. I just think that we're in a time when we have to put some action behind that mouthpiece that we have.

AP: You don't sound like a man resting on your laurels.

Wonder: No, I can't do that. I've got children to feed—I'm kidding. But I've got children, so they're always inspiring me with songs and new ideas. So I'm going to be doing this thing for a long time. I love it. I love music.

AP: Are new ways of music distribution, such as streaming, fair to artists?

Wonder: The days of the cheapening of music, and music just being a sort of background source, is unacceptable. My desire (is to see) the emphasis being put on the quality of the sound of the music and the music experience. Different artists are talking about the laws that exist and how they need to be fixed so that compensation does happen to a far fairer level. And I agree with that. You hear people saying all the time, 'This is a song we got married to.' 'This is what we had our first dance to.' ... People love to hear music on their personal devices, but the issue really becomes, if you're able to download music, you should know this download and the quality of it is going to be of the highest, and that it has a value to it and on it.

Bon Jovi performs intimate set in Kenneth Cole store

NEW YORK (AP)—Most of the time when you hear a Bon Jovi song in a store, it's playing over a loudspeaker. But Thursday night, around 100 lucky fans were treated to seeing the New Jersey-born rocker perform a bunch of his hits during an intimate acoustic set inside a Kenneth Cole store in Soho.

The performance, as New York Fashion Week began, was part of Common Thread, an initiative Jon Bon Jovi started with Cole that provides a platform for the new designers and musicians.

"Despite all the social media and the ability for people to have a voice, it's so hard for them to find an audience for that voice," Cole told The Associated Press on Thursday. "So tonight is kind of the two of them coming together, and that's what the common thread."

Before the show, the 52-year old musician expressed his feeling that while the technology for making music has gotten simpler, he sees no substitute for raw performance as the true measure of talent.

Eddie Murphy looks to get back into groove with music

LONDON (AP)—Eddie Murphy biggest success in music came on his first try, with the 1985 smash "Party All the Time." After that, not much was heard from the entertainer on the musical front—but he kept on plugging away at it out of the spotlight.

"When I'm not acting and being funny, in my private time in my personal time I do music more than anything. I'm always in the studio," he said.

Now, Murphy is ready to let people know what he's been working on, Last month, he released a reggae single, "Oh Jah Jah," inspired by recent events.

"I was watching CNN about two or three months ago and all this craziness was going on with the terrorism and chopping off people's heads and then St. Louis, Ferguson. A bunch of police brutality going on (at the) same time and I had that progression, but I didn't have any lyrics, but I had that groove," he said. I'd been playing that progression for about a month and then I was watching the news and it all came together one day," he said.

While his music releases are occasional, he's been more busy on the acting front: He's finished a new movie and on Sunday, he'll return to "Saturday Night Live," for the show's 40th anniversary special.

Murphy

Murphy spoke to The Associated Press recently about his music, film and comedy.

The Associated Press: Why the long wait before you released something?

Murphy: I wasn't waiting. I was just recording stuff. I stopped putting stuff out in the 80s because, I don't know how old you are, but back in the 80s, it was like a bunch of actors putting albums out. Everybody was singing and it always looked weird, like an actor singing this weird song, like, 'What the hell is this?' And I was like 'I don't want to be a part of that.'... I just said, 'Ok I'm not going to put these records out because I don't want people to think I'm trying to be an actor trying to be a pop star.' So I just kept writing my stuff and doing my stuff privately because I had no pressure and no expectations.

AP: Johnny Depp recently dismissed Hollywood stars who launch music careers off the back of their acting success and he called the trend 'sickening.' What would be your response to that?

Murphy: He talked about what I was talking about. When you see actors singing it usually looks like some actor who never really had any musical interest but is throwing that in with all the different success that their having and is trying to jump in. They may have a halfway decent voice and always fantasized about singing. Everybody wants to be a singer. That's why I stopped putting records out. I'm not trying to become a pop star and flip it to make some extra money, or become a bigger celebrity or any of that stuff. This is something that I do and have done for years and years.

AP: If you were to release a reggae album, would you put it out as Eddie Murphy or would you think of a reggae name?

Murphy: I've got 25 years of stuff on the shelf. I could go right now and pick six, seven, eight reggae songs and put out a reggae album. I could go back there and pick seven or eight country songs and do a country album, or I could do a regular dance/R&B album. I've had people say, 'You should put a record out because it's a good song and if they didn't know it was you they'd like it under a different name,' but, hey, these are my tracks and I'm not hiding behind any of it. It is what it is.

AP: Will there be an upcoming album or any collaborations?

Murphy: I have collaborations with all kinds of different artists over the years. Stuff with B.B. King, I've recorded with Paul McCartney, Snoop, ... Raphael Saadiq. As far as future collaborations, that all has to come together organically. As far as an album coming out, if one of these tracks jumps off, if one of them connects with the people digging it and I get some momentum going, I'll put an album but I'm not planning an album until I'm sure people want to hear something. Otherwise it'll stay on the shelf for years and years. A hundred years from now they dig through everything and I'm totally fine with them finding hours and hours and hours of collaborations and they'll say, 'We didn't even know Eddie Murphy.' I'm totally fine with that.

AP: What about any upcoming film projects?

Murphy: I just finished a movie. it's not a comedy though. It's called "Cook" and it's got a really strong director, the guy that directed "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Tender Mercies," a guy named Bruce Beresford, a really strong director from Australia.

AP: Any plans on returning to stand-up comedy?

Murphy: When I was doing stand-up it was a hundred comedians, now it's a hundred thousand of them. So if I got onstage again I'd have to be doing something that makes me different from all these other hundred thousand comics. My fantasy when I think about live performances is playing with a really strong band playing a half-hour or 40 minutes of music and having the curtains go down then doing an hour of stand-up comedy. I'd have a really fly show if I could pull that one off.

Prince performs Valentine's Day set for star-studded crowd

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince woke up early Saturday to share some love and hits on Valentine's Day to a crowd that included former basketball star Michael Jordan, Beyonce, Jay Z and Chris Rock.

The pop icon performed an early morning concert to a star-studded audience: Questlove, Rosario Dawson, Nas and Queen Latifah, were among those dancing and singing to his rousing set in downtown New York City.

Wendy Williams danced onstage behind the keyboards throughout the first half of Prince's two-hour-plus performance, and the pop icon selected celebs to come onstage later in the set. Among them, Rock, Latifah, Questlove, BET executive Stephen Hill and "Extra" host A.J. Calloway—who all danced to Michael Jackson's "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" along with other non-celebs in the crowd.

The outside of 23 Wall Street was a bit chaotic as fans tried to get in to see Prince—some waiting outside in the brisk cold weather. Inside, it was hot with hit-after-hit. The singer's performance celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Jordan sneaker.

An energetic Prince switched from guitar to keys and singing to dancing, and was backed by his mentees, singer Liv Warfield and female trio 3RDEYEGIRL.

"How many hits we got?" he asked the crowd. "Do you know who I am?"

Lights flashing bright blue, red and purple burst from the stage, where Prince shined, wearing a black and gold ensemble.

"Y'all all right? Turn the lights off," he yelled several times.

He performed a number of popular songs, including "Controversy," ''1999," ''Little Red Corvette," ''Nothing Compares 2 U," ''Kiss" and "Hot Thing." Those who tried to capture video or snap photos—including celebrities—were quickly stopped.

Actress Rosario Dawson danced onstage, looking into Prince's eyes as she recited lyrics to "When Doves Cry," which he performed on the keys, while rapper Nas sang from the middle of the crowd.

"Y'all mind if I play my guitar for a little bit," he said as Latifah jammed on, sporting a fedora and glasses.

Other celeb attendees included football star Terrell Owens, Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, Mixed Martial Arts fighter Chuck Liddell, actor Tim Meadows and "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star Cynthia Bailey.

Prince—after being urged by fans who yelled "Purple Rain"—returned to the stage to close the night with the key song.

"I heard some people singing, but I want to hear everybody singing," he said, extending the song.

"You're welcome."

Familiar Oscar pattern seen in this year's acting races

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar envelopes have been full of surprises over the years, yet one pattern persists: academy voters are moved by affliction.

From 1988 to 1997, eight of the best actor winners had played a character with a mental or physical disability or disease. It's been less of a trend for women but this year, an afflicted role is the clear favorite in the best actress category.

In Oscar's 87th year, the acting front-runners for the Academy Awards are Eddie Redmayne, for his portrayal of ALS victim Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything," and five-time nominee Julianne Moore, for her depiction of a woman suffering from early onset Alzheimer's disease in "Still Alice."

Both have scored wins from the Screen Actors Guild and the British film academy and in some ways, their Oscar success has been a foregone conclusion for months.

Academy Award-winning depictions of disabilities and diseases have been around since the beginning, but starting in the late 1970s and reaching a saturation point in the mid-1990s, it began to look like a formula.

Consider Dustin Hoffman in "Rain Man, Daniel Day-Lewis in "My Left Foot," Tom Hanks in "Forrest Gump," Al Pacino in "Scent of a Woman," Geoffrey Rush in "Shine," or Colin Firth in "The King's Speech," to name just a few.

AP

In this Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014 file photo, Professor Stephen Hawking, right, and cast member Eddie Redmayne arrive on the blue carpet for the UK premiere of "The Theory of Everything" at the Odeon in Leicester Square, central London.

How have they done it again? Even the possible upsets in the best actor category fit the pattern, with Bradley Cooper's portrayal of the suffering Chris Kyle in "American Sniper," or Michael Keaton as a possible schizophrenic in "Birdman." Alan Turing, as portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch also has what seems like undiagnosed Asperger tendencies in "The Imitation Game."

The short answer: Oscar simply wants to see the work.

"There are three things that academy members seem to gravitate toward: Actors who play real people, actors who go through a big physical transformation for their roles and actors playing a specific disease or condition, whether mental or physical," said Dave Karger, chief correspondent for Fandango. Redmayne's Hawking checks off two of those irresistible boxes.

One reason, Karger notes, is that the acting is out there.

"It's a very outward, easy to appreciate challenge that the actor has, to take a disease or a condition that we've all either heard about or that has touched our lives and really bring to life what it's like to tackle it," said Karger.

An actor's work and process is built in to those performances in an understandable way to non-actors.

"It's kind of like a big speech, or a big meltdown. It's something that, when the voters have the ballots in front of them, they can think back and have an easy reminder of what was so great about a particular performance," said Karger.

Also, actors themselves can't seem to resist the challenge.

"It felt like solving a puzzle," said Redmayne at last year's Toronto Film Festival. He spent nearly five months doing research, meeting with Hawking, his family, his old students and specialists to figure out how ALS progresses and how it affects the body. His goal was to be "really intricate in the physical degeneration."

Moore's character Alice might be fictional, but it was important for her and the directors to show a realistic portrait of the effects of early onset Alzheimer's. To prepare, she immersed herself in the world of both doctors and patients.

"I was really starting at zero," said Moore late last year. "I didn't want to represent anything on screen that I hadn't actually seen. I felt like that was the only fair way to do it."

But process and transformation mean nothing if what ends up on screen doesn't move academy voters.

"When you talk about thousands of people voting, generally the consensus votes with its heart," said AwardsDaily.com owner and Oscar blogger Sasha Stone.

"They need that urgency... usually that comes up in the form of someone they feel sorry for, who they want to see overcome their disability," she said.

In some ways, the perceived expectation of awards recognition for this type of performance can actually diminish the work of the actors to cynical onlookers.

"I don't want to make it seem like anyone can play someone with a disease and win an Oscar. It has to be the confluence of the right role and the right actor," said Karger.

Plus, it doesn't always result in a win, or even a nomination.

"Look at Jennifer Aniston. She tried it and it didn't work for her," added Stone, referring to Aniston not being nominated for her portrayal of a woman suffering from chronic pain in the little-seen drama "Cake."

Also, as USC School of Cinematic Arts associate professor Jason Squire notes, it's a positive thing when these performances break out.

"There's a healthy trend toward socializing these characters so you don't think of them as disability first. Disability is just a component of a character," he said.

With academy members still voting, nothing is locked in just yet. Oscar has surprised us before.

What makes an Oscarcast click? Will it click this year?

NEW YORK (AP)—What are TV viewers seeking from their annual Oscar fix? The same thing they want from movies: drama, comedy, sex, slapstick, glamour and romance.

Of course, no single movie can do all that. No wonder the perfect Oscarcast is an impossible dream. No wonder so many previous Oscarcasts failed to measure up.

A perfect broadcast would include Roberto Benigni scrambling over auditorium seats to claim his trophy (1998), an onstage streaker (1974), Cher in a collection of outrageous get-ups, a rematch between 2008 rivals James Cameron and ex-wife Kathryn Bigelow, that deliciously awful 1988 musical number with Rob Lowe and "Snow White," more of Jack Palance's one-armed pushups from beyond the grave, plus the stirring acceptance speech by Halle Berry in 2002.

Not gonna happen. We'll just have to make do when the 87th annual Academy Awards show airs Sunday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. EST on ABC. Besides counter-programming on other networks, here's what the Oscarcast is up against this year:

SURE SHOT

Everyone loves a blockbuster or two landing best-picture nods. It gets people talking and tuning it. But this year, big hits like "Interstellar" and "The Lego Movie" were snubbed, with the nominees almost uniformly "small" pictures—with the exception, of course, of "American Sniper," whose box-office firepower in recent weeks has caught everyone off guard and triggered hero-or-killer disputes about its protagonist.

Even so, the favorites appear to be "Birdman" and "Boyhood," both terrific films that may not be such conversation starters. To handicap their Oscar chances with your friends, you first have to find someone else who has seen them.

WHITER SHADE OF PALE

Procol Harum should be named this year's Oscar house band. As you may have noticed, there's not much diversity among the nominees. Will the contenders' pallor cast a pall on viewership, or will the uproar over the Academy's single-mindedness prod movie fans to tune in and witness what they see as Oscar's sins of omission?

IS THE HOST TOAST?

Neil Patrick Harris is so talented and versatile other entertainers would probably endorse slapping a restraining order on him. Meanwhile, viewers clearly love him, and why wouldn't they? On the other hand, he's hosted the Tonys four times and the Emmys twice. Isn't there someone else out there, maybe with new tricks up his or her sleeve, who could shake things up beyond Harris' dependable excellence?

PRONOUNCIATION GUIDE

Nothing against the nominated directors, honest! But overall, these guys—no matter how admired and acclaimed—aren't household names. Not yet, anyway. Here's hoping that, if he wins, his presenter isn't John Travolta (who already mangled Idina Menzel's name on last year's Oscarcast).

GETTING IN THE ACT

Maybe a new way of watching the Oscars calls for a new kind of Oscarcast. Tom O'Neil, editor of the awards prediction website GoldDerby.com, thinks so.

"It used to be that viewership was tied to the popularity of the films in contention," he says. "But there's been a dramatic shift in the last few years since social media has started to matter."

Now the Oscarcast, like lots of TV fare, is being fortified with a second screen enabling the viewer to participate, not just sit back and watch. This could signal a change in what draws viewers to the show and keeps them there.

"Everybody wants to watch," says O'Neil, "then tweet to their friends what they're thinking. That changes everything."

Last year's broadcast had a landmark moment when host Ellen DeGeneres arranged a all-star selfie. Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Kevin Spacey, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt were among the A-listers crowding into the frame. DeGeneres then asked viewers (of which there were 43 million, the most for the Oscarcast in a decade) to help her set a retweet record. Legions quickly complied, sharing the photo throughout cyberspace and even briefly crashing Twitter.

Count on similar give-and-take Sunday night, says O'Neil, who offers his recipe for what a digital-age Oscarcast should be striving for.

"It doesn't have to be oh-my-God-amazing," he proposes. "It has to be an engaging, interactive experience." And without the customary big-movie lures, "this is the year we may find out for sure if that's true or not."

Jackie Chan's son apologizes after release from jail

BEIJING (AP)—The son of actor Jackie Chan apologized to the public Saturday and asked for a second chance following his release from a six-month jail sentence for allowing people to use marijuana in his apartment.

Jaycee Chan, 32, said at a news conference that he was rededicating himself to his family and entertainment business career. He said he had "no reason, no excuse" for the behavior that led to his arrest in August alongside Taiwanese actor Ko Kai and others.

"After this correction by the justice system, I have changed my outlook on life and my values," Chan said.

Chan and Ko tested positive for marijuana, and police seized more than 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of the drug from his Beijing apartment. He could have been sentenced to up to three years, but was shown leniency by the court for having come clean with his law breaking.

Chan's news conference was broadcast live on Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, illustrating the propaganda value Beijing hopes to gain from the high-profile case amid a sweeping anti-drugs crackdown.

Over the first half of last year, Beijing saw a 53-percent rise in drug investigations in the city to more than 1,800 cases. More than 8,400 suspects have been detained during that time, an increase of 79 percent over the same period last year.

Chan, whose mother is former Taiwanese actress Lin Feng-jiao, was raised in Los Angeles and has appeared in about 20 films, most of them low-budget Hong Kong and mainland Chinese productions.

Jackie Chan has publicly apologized for his son's drug use and pledged to work with him on his recovery. The incident was sensitive for him because of his status as a Chinese anti-drugs ambassador and deputy to the national legislature's main consultative body.

Jaycee Chan said his father did not intervene on his behalf and that he received no special treatment in prison, where conditions were "quite harsh."

Speaking slowly in a quiet voice, he said he'd first encountered marijuana eight years earlier on a trip to the Netherlands, but only became a regular user about two years ago.

"I'm very ashamed that I haven't been a good role model," Chan said. "I want to start again, but I know that it's the mass media that will decide."

Chan's arrest put his entertainment career in jeopardy, with several Chinese management companies saying they would refuse to employ celebrities caught using drugs. While professing his love for show business, Chan said he was now focused on spending time with his parents over next week's Lunar New Year holiday.

AP
Hong Kong actor Jaycee Chan pauses during a news conference at a hotel in Beijing Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Gary Busey hits woman in Malibu accident

MALIBU, California (AP)—Authorities say actor Gary Busey struck and slightly injured a woman with his car while backing out of a shopping center parking lot in Malibu. The accident happened shortly before 3pm. Friday on the Pacific Coast Highway. A statement from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says the 70-year-old actor was backing out of a parking stall when he hit the woman. She was treated at the scene and released. Busey wasn't immediately cited, and investigators say there's no evidence that alcohol or illegal substances were involved in the mishap.

Stage version of 'Frozen' to have familiar writers

NEW YORK (AP)—The stage version of "Frozen" will have some familiar faces behind the scenes. Disney Theatrical Productions said Friday that the husband-and-wife team of Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez will be working on the show and Jennifer Lee, co-director and screenwriter of the film, is writing the story. No other staffing or dates have been announced. "Frozen" has earned Disney more than $1.27 billion at the box office worldwide, becoming the most successful animated movie of all time. Its signature song, "Let It Go," won an Oscar. Lopez helped write "The Book of Mormon" and "Avenue Q," while his wife is behind Disney World's "Finding Nemo" show. They also are writing a new musical comedy called "Up Here" for La Jolla Playhouse.

After death, sales soar for David Carr memoir on addiction

NEW YORK (AP)—The death of David Carr has made his memoir about addiction one of the fastest-selling books on Amazon.com. Carr's "The Night of the Gun: A Reporter Investigates the Darkest Story of His Life. His Own." was No. 26 on Amazon and out of stock Friday afternoon. A day ago, it was No. 53,570. Carr was The New York Times' widely read and respected media columnist. He collapsed and died Thursday at age 58. "The Night of the Gun" was first published in 2008. It traces Carr's rise from cocaine addict to single dad raising twin girls to sobered-up Times columnist.

Autopsy shows New York Times writer Carr died of lung cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Autopsy results show New York Times media columnist David Carr died of complications from metastatic lung cancer.

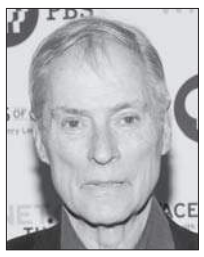
Julie Bolcer, a spokeswoman for the New York City medical examiner's office, says the autopsy shows heart disease was a contributing cause of death. Carr collapsed at the newspaper's headquarters and died on Thursday. He was 58. He wrote the Media Equation column for The New York Times and penned a memoir about his fight with drug addiction. He was lauded as "the finest media reporter of his generation" by the Times' Executive Editor Dean Baquet. Carr's 2008 memoir "The Night of the Gun" traces his rise from cocaine addict to single dad raising twin girls to sobered-up media columnist for the Times.

Police study cab's computer system in fatal Bob Simon crash

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City police are examining the computer system of a livery cab for clues to what caused the accident that killed "60 Minutes" correspondent Bob Simon.

Police said Friday the system should be able to tell them if the car was accelerating before it collided with another vehicle on the West Side Highway in Manhattan.

Police say the driver has told investigators he remembers feeling a bump before the crash but not much else. He remains hospitalized with broken legs and a broken arm.



Simon

The city's medical examiner found Simon died from blunt-force injuries to his head, torso and extremities and had fractures. Police say he wasn't wearing a seatbelt.

Simon covered most major overseas conflicts and news stories since the late 1960s. He was 73 years old.

Don McLean's 'American Pie' manuscript to be auctioned in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Christie's says that singer-songwriter Don McLean is selling his manuscript and notes to "American Pie," the wistful anthem that asked, "Do you recall what was revealed the day the music died?"

The auction house said Friday McLean is selling 16 pages that include the original working manuscript and typed drafts of the song.

Christie's is estimating that "American Pie" will sell for $1 million to $1.5 million when it is auctioned April 7 in New York.

The eight-minute-long "American Pie" was released in 1971. It was a No. 1 U.S. hit for four weeks in 1972.

"The day the music died" refers to the Feb. 3, 1959, deaths of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper in a plane crash.

Kevin Hart indifferent to Sony executive Amy Pascal's firing

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Hart says he never had any "hard feelings" toward former Sony Pictures co-chair Amy Pascal. And now that she's been forced to step down, he just wants to distance himself from last year's Sony cyber-attack and release of offensive emails from Pascal and other executives that mentioned Hart and others.

The 35-year old Hart says he's only concerned with issues that affect his family.

"If it's not something threatening them, it gets none of my attention," he told The Associated Press before the NBA Celebrity Game on Friday at Madison Square Garden.

He said Pascal's firing doesn't concern him either way.

"It has nothing to do with me. I'm a comedian. I'm an entertainer. Anything that's outside of my box I don't concern myself with," Hart said.

Traumatic breakup leaves teen looking for a lifeline

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old girl who recently broke up with my boyfriend of 2 1/2 years. During the time we were together we shared many experiences, including a miscarriage. Now he wants to be alone. He doesn't want to date or have any relationship because he says he feels "love is different now."

I'm having a difficult time coping. I feel like I have been thrown away. I didn't ask for such a serious commitment, but he made me believe.

I am scared, depressed, anxious and no longer want to date because I don't want to have any casual flings. My loyalty is literally killing me. I don't know if I should change my preferences in life or learn to love me. I'm too young for this, right?

TEEN IN NEW YORK

DEAR TEEN: No one is "old enough" to experience what you have and not come out of it without emotional bruises. Not knowing your former boyfriend, I'm reluctant to guess whether he is grieving the loss of the baby, or relieved that he isn't going to have fatherhood thrust upon him and has run for the hills. But at least for the present, accept that the relationship is over and don't blame yourself.

You could benefit from talking to a counselor about everything you have been through. I agree you are not ready to date right now and, frankly, you shouldn't until you are more healed emotionally. If you have older, experienced women in your life with whom you can talk, it's important that you do. The feelings you are experiencing are normal under the circumstances, including your loss of self-esteem. I'm glad you have the insight to realize that you need to learn to love yourself again before re-entering the dating scene.

DEAR ABBY: My 30-year-old daughter and 8-year-old granddaughter have moved back home. The house now holds four generations. It's hard to keep everyone happy.

My father and I are both years-long smokers, which is causing major problems. Neither of us wishes to quit, and we feel it is our right to do as we please in our own home. My daughter is constantly telling her daughter to tell us she doesn't want to live here anymore because of the smoke.

Abby, they asked to move in here. She lives here for nothing, and pays nothing for food or transportation. God forbid I ask her to do something around here to help out. Who's right?

SMOKER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SMOKER: Let me put it this way. Your daughter is lucky to be living with you, thanks to your generosity. If she has a bone to pick with you, she should do it directly—not through her child.

That said, because secondhand smoke isn't healthy for children, out of love and consideration for your granddaughter, you and your father should consider designating a smoking room in your home and lighting up there, or smoking outside.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

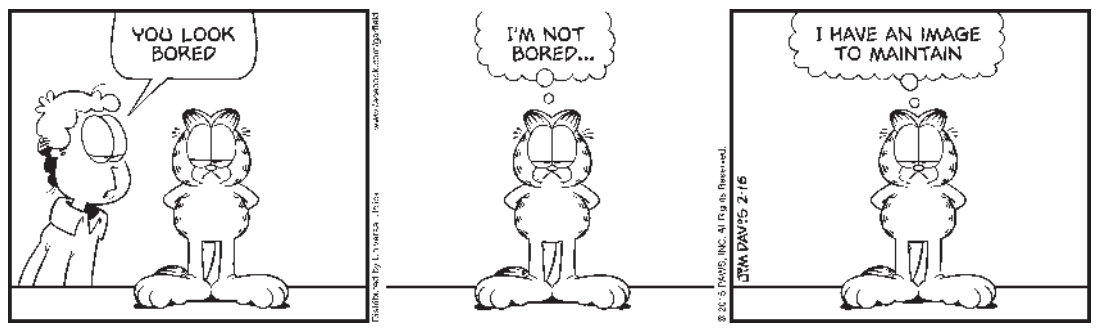
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MMM... SOMEBODY'S HAVING A FIRE. I LOVE THE SMELL OF A FIRE ON A COLD WINTER DAY.
ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW SMELLS ARE SO EVOCATIVE, BUT WE CAN'T DESCRIBE THEM?
OH, I DUNNO. THAT FIRE HAS A SNORKY, BRAMBISH SMELL.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ANIMALS WOULD HAVE WORDS FOR SMELLS.
IT'S A LITTLE BRUNKY, BUT THE LOW HUMIDITY AFFECTS THAT.

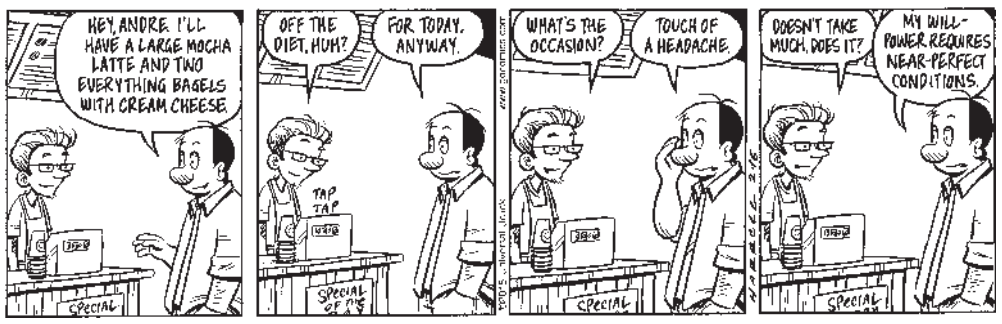
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, ANDRE. I'LL HAVE A LARGE MOCHA LATTE AND TWO EVERYTHING BAGELS WITH CREAM CHEESE.
OFF THE DIET, HUH?
FOR TODAY, ANYWAY.
TAP TAP
WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
TOUCH OF A HEADACHE.
DOESN'T TAKE MUCH, DOES IT?
MY WILL-POWER REQUIRES NEAR-PERFECT CONDITIONS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Be in the red
4 Glitch
9 Marry
12 Resistance measure
13 Deceived
14 Raw rock
15 Indoor chores
17 — Tin Tin
18 Tavern
19 Detachable shirtfront
21 Political argument
24 Ignore
25 Hwy.
26 Day fractions (Abbr.)
28 Wine sediment
31 Landers and Richards
33 Beatles' "— Blues"
35 Carbon compound
36 Luxury craft
38 Symbol of intrigue
40 Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
41 Employ
43 Chess piece
45 Molly-coddle
47 Can. neighbor
48 Historic time
49 Clemens alias
54 Knight's address
55 Wickerwork willow
56 Lingerie item
57 Erstwhile acorn
58 Copy, for short
59 Taxi

DOWN
1 Reaction to fireworks
2 Personal question
3 Ostrich's cousin
4 Detective
5 — Medal (kiddie lit prize)
6 Commotion
7 Fairlane and Focus
8 Cruel
9 Garage feature
10 A Great Lake
11 Gainsay
16 Hot tub
20 Remedy
21 Low, heavy wagon
22 Sicilian spouter
23 Standard
27 Stitch
29 Type of dancer
30 Blunder
32 Member of the fleet
34 Severe critic
37 Quake
39 Nightclub
42 Obliterate
44 Witnessed
45 Mexican money
46 Met melody
50 Tear
51 "The View" airer
52 Playwright Levin
53 Apprehend

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	A	T		S	I	P		B	I	T	E	S
A	D	O		I	O	F		I	N	A	L	L
I		T		A	D	A	M	A	N	T	:	Y
S	E	A		M	I	K	E	S				
A	U	L	D		N	E	W		F	O	A	L
			I	K	E		S	T	A	R	V	E
O	R	A	T	E			E	M	B	E	D	
B	O	B	C	A	T		W	E	E			
I	'	C	H		U	G	H		D	A	H	N
			S	T	R	A	W		P	I	E	
E	V	E	N	T	U	A	T	E		A	P	R
N		M	B	Y		Z	I	N		R	E	V
S	A	U	C	Γ		Γ	Γ	T		T	R	Y

Friday's answer 2-16

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Olsen, 26; John McEnroe, 56; Ice-T, 57; LeVar Burton, 58.

Happy Birthday: This will be a great year for educational pursuits. Whether you learn on the job, online or in a classroom, the knowledge you gain will help you make headway in a direction that offers greater satisfaction mentally, physically and financially. Believe in your abilities and set reasonable but high standards. Imagine your dream and make it happen. Your numbers are 2, 6, 13, 21, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let your emotions take over. Productivity will be the name of the game, so stay focused and do a good job. Spend time helping people in need, not those who are in competition with you. Refrain from sharing your secrets. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your eyes and ears open. You will discover valuable information that can save you from making a big mistake. Overdoing and overspending must be controlled. A positive change will be successful if developed and executed in secrecy. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Demands will be made, but that doesn't mean you have to oblige. Consider what's being asked of you and whether or not it is something you want to do. Now is a good time to act with intelligence, not emotion. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Try to focus on personal changes that encourage you to feel better as well as boost your confidence. Implementing a unique or creative edge to whatever job you do will separate you from any competition you face. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Question your current vocational direction. If you want to make a change, consider what skills or knowledge you will need in order to reach your goal. Connect through networking events that deal with the industry that interests you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put greater importance on partnerships and working alongside people who enhance and contribute to your plans. A change in your financial standing or dealing with a legal concern must be handled cautiously and with moderation. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Making alterations to the way you live based on your needs will be beneficial. Don't hesitate to follow your dreams and reach out to people from your past who can help you get ahead now. Don't take no for an answer. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't feel the need to make decisions before you are ready to do so. Work on projects or activities that allow you to use your creative imagination, and you will avoid being pushed into a situation that leads to unnecessary excess. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen and you will detect if anyone is trying to lead you astray. Stay on top of matters involving other people to avoid being taken advantage of. Make changes based on facts you have uncovered, not hearsay. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Carefully consider what you want to do. Don't make impulsive decisions. Use your insight and intuition to guide you financially. An emotional matter will escalate if you are too pushy. Good fortune will come from helping others. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can make positive professional changes if you use discipline, knowledge, past experiences and connections to help you advance. Approach change with optimism and positive results will unfold. Don't be a follower when you should be a leader. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't stop offering suggestions to others. It's how you deal with others that will make a difference. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction, so follow your heart and do what comes naturally. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are popular, imaginative and independent. You are a free spirit.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3			1			7	
		6				4		
4	1		3		2		8	9
		4	2		3	1		
9				7				3
		5	8		1	9		
5	9		7		4		1	6
		3				7		
	7			6			9	

Difficulty Level ★ 2/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	2	9	7	3	8	6	1
3	8	9	6	4	1	7	5	2
6	7	1	5	2	8	4	9	3
8	3	6	7	9	4	2	1	5
5	9	4	1	6	2	3	8	7
1	2	7	3	8	5	9	4	6
9	4	5	2	3	6	1	7	8
7	1	3	8	5	9	6	2	4
2	6	8	4	1	7	5	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALASKAN WATERWAYS — Solution: 7 letters

C	P	C	I	T	C	R	A	N	A	N	E	N	N	T
S	M	A	E	R	T	S	S	E	D	I	T	A	A	V
R	K	U	W	(E)	R	T	A	T	L	E	D	T	N	O
T	K	I	(M)	I	U	E	R	N	L	G	S	U	U	L
C	U	(O)	G	Y	A	O	P	I	A	H	A	R	S	K
L	(N)	K	A	A	F	K	M	P	E	N	L	E	H	M
A	A	H	A	U	N	Y	O	N	O	G	A	J	U	A
R	O	K	A	G	T	K	S	O	U	C	T	T	K	R
K	U	E	B	R	N	H	E	E	H	Z	N	K	I	E
N	B	L	O	O	I	O	L	L	K	C	A	V	P	V
F	U	F	K	N	C	H	K	O	A	A	E	I	E	A
E	S	U	I	E	E	E	E	N	W	R	L	C	W	E
R	Y	G	A	S	S	S	L	E	S	S	E	V	H	I	B
R	U	N	S	L	H	H	R	E	L	B	M	A	K	S
Y	P	P	A	H	C	R	I	B	T	I	E	K	E	L

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Alatna, Aleknagik, Alsek, Ambler, Arctic, Azun, Beaufort, Beaver, Birch, Blue, Chena, Clark, Copper, Delta, Eagle, Echooka, Ferry, Fish, Fortymile, Happy, Hess, Ipewik, Jago, Kongakut, Kuna, Kvichak, Lakes, Lowe, Nanushuk, Nature, Nenana, Nigu, Nome, Nuka, Ocean, Paw, Rivers, Streams, Stuyahok, Tanana, Tatshenshini, Tides, Tiekel, Vessels, Volkmar, Yukon

Last Friday's Answer: Relish

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/ embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Multi tasking. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com

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Curry wins 3-point contest, LaVine takes dunk competition

NEW YORK (AP— Stephen Curry honored a fallen fan the best way he knew how. Zach LaVine made a name for himself in a dunk contest that lacked star punch.

Curry bested Golden State Warriors teammate Klay Thompson and six others to win his first 3-point contest, and LaVine put on a spectacular aerial display to take home the dunk competition during a memorable All-Star Saturday night.

Curry paid homage to one of the three victims of the shooting in North Carolina, writing a message to Deah Shaddy Barakat on his sneakers for the shooting stars competition, then swapping those for a different color pair for the 3-point contest. Barakat was one of three Muslim college students killed Tuesday in Curry's home state.

"It only seemed right to honor him and his family, and hopefully they know that people are thinking about them," Curry said. "They're not alone, and hopefully it can give them some kind of peace and comfort knowing that he was a special guy. And I just did my little part to shed light toward him."

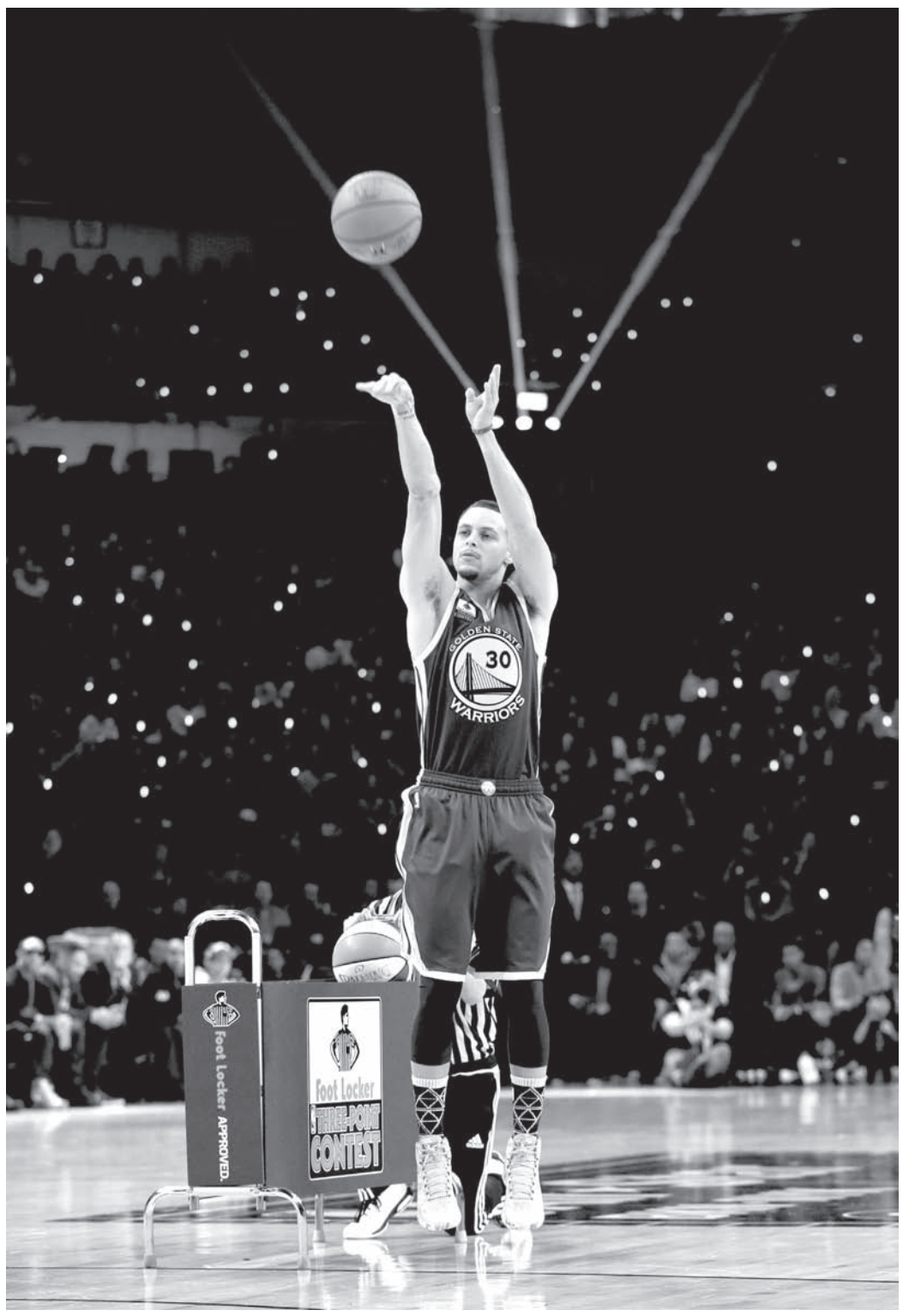
Curry said there were several connections to the family that touched him.

He said Barakat did his wedding photo similar to a magazine cover featuring Curry and his wife, Ayesha. Barakat also wore a No. 30 jersey—Curry's number—in basketball leagues and some of Curry's family members even played pickup games with Barakat in North Carolina.

"They all spoke highly of him," Curry said. "It's a great platform to be on, but it only seemed right."

Barakat's wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and her sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, also were killed in the attack. Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder in their deaths.

Curry, the starting point guard for the Western Conference in Sunday's All-Star game at Madison Square Garden, made sure he'd have the chance to shine a bright light on Barakat and his family.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry competes during the NBA All-Star Saturday 3-point basketball contest Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015, in New York.

He scored 27 points in the final round. Curry connected on 13 consecutive shots until missing his final attempt, bringing fans and celebrities roaring to their feet after every swish at Brooklyn's Barclays Center.

Thompson, who had an opening-round best of 24, scored only 14 points in the final round. Cleveland's Kyrie Irving finished second with 17 points in the three-man final.

It was a rare year when the 3-point competition had as much—if not more—intrigue heading into it than the dunk contest because of the notable names who were—and weren't—participating in each.

Even still, LaVine left a lasting impression few will forget.

The 19-year-old Timberwolves rookie scored a perfect 100 in the opening round. He highlighted his scintillating start with a through-the-legs, one-handed reverse slam, wearing a white No. 23 Jordan jersey for what he dubbed the "Space Jam" dunk.

On his second dunk, he tossed the ball up, put it behind his back in the air and threw down a powerful one-handed slam for another 50 from the Hall of Fame judges—Julius Erving, Walt Frazier, Nate Archibald, Bernard King and Chris Mullin.

LaVine had a final round score of 94 to overtake Orlando's Victor Oladipo, who struggled to convert his first attempt in the final and finished with a 72 in the championship round. LaVine became the first Timberwolves player to win the dunk contest since Isaiah Rider in 1994.

"I'm still on cloud nine. I feel like I'm dreaming," LaVine said. "Seeing all the dunk contests and people hoisting the trophy, I just saw myself do it and lived it. So it's a dream come true. I'm glad my family is here to witness it and go through it."

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, aka The Greek Freak, and Brooklyn's Mason Plumlee didn't advance past the opening round.

Even with all the above-the-rim athleticism, the MVP frontrunner put on quite a show from long distance.

Curry, who set the NBA-record with 272 3-pointers in a season two years ago, finally took home the 3-point crown on his fourth try. He earned bragging rights over his fellow "Splash Brothers" star in the process, putting pressure on Thompson to follow his spotlight-stealing final round.

He couldn't.

Nobody could.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver, who is shooting a league-high 52.3 percent from beyond the arc, and defending champion Marco Belinelli of San Antonio never made it past the first round with scores of 18. Portland's Wesley Matthews finished with 22, Los Angeles Clippers guard J.J. Redick scored 17 and Houston's James Harden had 15.

Chris Bosh, Dominique Wilkins and Swin Cash won their third straight shooting stars competition earlier. Houston's Patrick Beverley won the skills competition.

Mo'ne Davis outshines Kevin Hart at celebrity All-Star game

NEW YORK (AP)—Little League phenom Mo'ne Davis was so impressive on a basketball court she momentarily silenced trash-talking "Wedding Ringer" star Kevin Hart.

Playing in the All-Star Celebrity Game against opponents more than twice her age, the 13-year-old drove past Hart, the game's MVP for the fourth time, with a spectacular spin move for an easy layup in the first quarter Friday night.

"That was pretty cool," Davis said. "I work on it, but usually don't do it. It was the right time to do it."

Hart, who like Davis is from Philadelphia, said, "No excuses," as he returned to the huddle shortly after her basket.

Madison Square Garden was abuzz with stars from the NBA, WNBA and Hollywood two nights before the NBA All-Star Game is played Sunday. But much of the attention was on the teenager, who got one of the loudest ovations from the crowd when she was introduced before the game.

Davis, a pitcher, shot to fame as the first girl to win a Little League World Series game. Only in eighth grade, Davis already plays basketball for the high school varsity team.

"It was a lot of fun, a lot of people never saw me play basketball," she said. "To play in the celebrity All-Star game was pretty cool."

The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year finished the All-Star Game with four points, helping the West team beat the East 59-51. Hart had 15 points.

"She was really impressive out there," said WNBA star Skylar Diggins. "She definitely held her own."

Davis was a little star struck, too. She made sure to take a photo with Diggins after the game before she left.

Hart announced his retirement from the game when he received his MVP trophy.

"It's my fourth MVP," the comedian said. "I can't do no more."

The West team was coached by ESPN personality Mike Golic and Spike Lee, who was wearing a blue hat with orange trim in honor of his beloved New York Knicks. Lee directed a commercial that starred Davis. Carmelo Anthony along with ESPN personality Mike Greenberg coached the East team.

The game also included actors Anthony Anderson, Common, Nick Cannon, Sarah Silverman, Ansel Elgort, Chadwick Boseman, Jesse Williams and Michael Rapaport, who grew up in New York City. Williams, who stars on Grey's Anatomy, injured his knee with 5 minutes left in the game and was helped off the court and back to the locker room.

Bollywood star Abhishek Bachchan also played as did singer Win Butler of Arcade Fire.

NBA Hall of Famer and New York native Chris Mullin played as did former New York Knicks' star Allan Houston. Current WNBA players Diggins, Tina Charles and Shoni Schimmel represented the league. Schimmel, who was the MVP of the WNBA All-Star game this past year, tricked Silverman—who was on the other team, to give her the ball under the basket which the Atlanta Dream star converted for a layup.

She led all scorers with 17 points.

"This was awesome," Schimmel said. "Really had a great time playing here in this."

Memphis Grizzlies owner Robert Pera also played, showing off his basketball skills. A few years back he tried to challenge Michael Jordan to a 1-on-1 game for charity that never developed.

Pera and Diggins finished with 13 points each to lead the West.

This was the first time that the celebrity game was played at an NBA arena.

Wiggins leads World team past US in Rising Stars Challenge

NEW YORK (AP)—Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points, Rudy Gobert added 18 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots, and the World team beat the U.S. 121-112 on Friday night in the Rising Stars Challenge at All-Star weekend.

Wiggins, the No. 1 pick from Canada who plays for Minnesota, was chosen as the game's MVP.

Brooklyn's Bojan Bogdanovic of Croatia, playing on his home court, and Chicago's Nikola Mirotic from Montenegro each added 16 points for the World.

Orlando's Victor Oladipo and Zach LaVine of Minnesota each scored 22 points for the U.S. team in the game between rookies and second-year players.

It was another new format for the opening game of All-Star weekend, which originated as a contest between teams of rookies, later turned into rookies against second-year players, and this year changed to the world against U.S. players.

It looked like all the other versions, with lots of 1-on-1 play and little defense beyond Gobert, the French center who impressively stuffed Nets center Mason Plumlee late in the game with the World protecting a narrow lead.

Some of the dunks were impressive—all four contestants in Saturday's slam dunk contest were in Friday's game—but the play was spotty. Oladipo shot 8 for 21 and the teams combined for 51 turnovers.

Minnesota's Gorgui Dieng of Senegal finished with 14 points and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo of Greece had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the World. He's in the dunk contest Saturday along with LaVine, Oladipo and Plumlee.

Utah's Trey Burke scored 17 points for the U.S. and Plumlee had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Furyk goes on birdie spree and takes lead at Pebble

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Jim Furyk hasn't competed on the PGA Tour in seven months, so he kept his expectations to a minimum at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

That changed into pressure he knows all too well with one big round.

Furyk made seven birdies over his last 10 holes at Pebble Beach on Saturday, the last one with a wedge he spun back to tap-in range on the par-5 18th, for his best round in two decades playing this tournament. He had a 9-under 63 and a one-shot lead over Matt Jones and Brandt Snedeker going into the final round.

For the 44-year-old Furyk, it's another chance to end more than four years without a victory. He has had at least a share of the 54-hole lead eight times during that drought without converting. But at least he has another chance.

"Ultimately, I want to win golf tournaments and that's what's most important to me," said Furyk, who was at 18-under 197. "And I think maybe at times last year, I sat here and looked at y'all and said, `I'm not going to put pressure on myself, I'm just going to go out there and try and play the same way.' It's not hard to look you right in the eye and say, `I want to win golf tournaments.' But it's hard to go out the next day and try to play the same way and not put extra pressure on yourself.

"We all expect a lot of ourselves and we all put pressure on ourselves on Sunday," he said. "But I think that the way maybe I was doing it in the past was a little counterproductive at times."

AP

Jim Furyk reacts after making a birdie putt on the second green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the third round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Jones made six birdies in a seven-hole stretch and built a three-shot lead late in the glorious afternoon until he made bogey on his last two holes at Pebble Beach for a 67. Furyk caught up to him and then passed him with a wedge to a foot on the final hole. Brandt Snedeker, who went 47 holes before making his first bogey of the tournament, made a 20-foot birdie putt on his final hole for a 67.

"Didn't have my best stuff starting out today," Snedeker said. "I was able to gut out a good round. You kind of have to do that. ... You're going to have a stretch of golf where you're not playing your best, and hopefully, mine is behind me now."

Furyk had a stretch of great golf, and it carried him to his best round at Pebble Beach. He made an 8-foot birdie on the ninth hole and took off. He twice had tap-in birdies, and three others were inside 10 feet.

It was better than he imagined considering how long he has been away from competition. His last official tournament was the Tour Championship on Sept. 14 when he tied for second. He also played the Ryder Cup and filled in at the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, but otherwise took one of the longest breaks of his career.

"I really didn't know where I stood coming out here," Furyk said. "I was going to be very patient and see where I was, and go play Pebble and L.A. and reassess and have the week off to get ready for Doral and Tampa. I guess I'm pleasantly surprised. I wouldn't expect to be 18-under par after three days, I'll promise you that. But also didn't expect the weather to be like this either."

The weather has been nothing short of ideal, and it showed in the scoring. The cut was 7-under 209, breaking the tournament record of 4 under in 2005. That was too low for John Daly, who had a 73 at Spyglass Hill and missed the cut for the 11th straight time at this event dating to his rookie season in 1991.

It was the first time Furyk had the lead going into the final round since the Canadian Open nearly seven months ago. "I think it's only been four events," Furyk cracked, and he was close. It was six events ago. He also shared the lead at the Barclays, though that was wide open. And in some respects, so is this one.

A one-shot lead in the final round on the PGA Tour is like having no lead at all, and Furyk has more than Snedeker and Jones to worry about. Nick Watney, who played at Fresno State and was thrilled to be playing with San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey, had a 65 at Pebble Beach and was two shots behind. Kevin Chappell, who grew up in Fresno, had a 66 at Pebble and was two shots behind.

Saturday is where the stars typically shine, from Posey and Huey Lewis, from Wayne Gretzky to Bill Murray. One woman asked who was in the fairway and was told it was Furyk, Watney, Posey and Lewis. She turned to a friend and said, "It's Buster Posey, Huey Lewis ... and two other guys."

This time, the players did enough to attract some of the spotlight. The top on the leaderboard all played at Pebble Beach.

History says $100 million pitchers must produce results fast

By RONALD BLUM
AP SPORTS WRITER

Max Scherzer and Jon Lester might as well have neon-green dollar signs stamped all over their uniforms and caps when spring training opens next week.

Their careers were redefined this offseason when they joined baseball's elite echelon of $100 million arms, a sweet 16 whose salaries total an even sweeter $2.42 billion. Every game they start and every pitch they throw will be viewed through the prism of their 1 percenter incomes.

Judging by history, they had better succeed swiftly with their new teams. Wins and innings pitched are likely to dwindle with age.

Theo Epstein, the Chicago Cubs' president of baseball operations who signed Lester, likens these megadeals to a "splurge on a luxury item," baseball's equivalent of a Birkin bag or vintage Ferrari.

Is the roster candy worth it to their teams? Or merely a status symbol?

"They are difference-makers. They are special talents. Usually there are only 10 to 12 of these in the game, and they give you something that no one else has," said agent Scott Boras, who negotiated the deals for Kevin Brown, Barry Zito and Scherzer. "A lot of teams have a lot of pitchers, but few teams have a true No. 1."

Only three pitchers have won World Series rings after signing nine-figure contracts: CC Sabathia with the New York Yankees, and Zito and Matt Cain with the San Francisco Giants. The rest find their finances sated but their ambitions starved.

The $100 million pitchers have combined to average a 12-9 record and 3.39 ERA during the first four seasons of their deals, according to STATS. During the remaining years, they fell to a 7-7 record and 4.43 ERA.

Durability decreases dramatically, with the group averaging 205 innings in first seasons, 178 by the third year and 132 by the fifth.

Justin Verlander was 124-65 and 30 years old when he signed his big deal with Detroit in March 2013. He is 28-24 since, slowed by core muscle surgery before the 2014 season.

"I don't think that there's anyone that looks at long-term contracts for pitchers that are older and thinks that all of them are going to be years of investment that are at the highest rate," Detroit Tigers president Dave Dombrowski said. "You expect some type of decline and adjustment that takes place."

Pitchers and catchers start workouts with the World Series champion San Francisco Giants on Thursday, and position players join five days later. Among the players making fresh starts are Pablo Sandoval and Hanley Ramirez with Boston; Matt Kemp, Justin Upton and James Shields with San Diego; and David Robertson with the Chicago White Sox.

And Alex Rodriguez returns to the New York Yankees at age 39 following his yearlong suspension.

Seeking the first championship in franchise history, Washington gave the 30-year-old Scherzer a $210 million, seven-year contract, $5 million shy of the record for pitchers set by the Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw.

The Cubs, who won their last title 17 days after the Ford's first Model T left the car factory in 1908, guaranteed $155 million over six seasons to Lester and included 25 hours of private jet use annually to seal the deal with the left-hander, who turned 31 last month.

Epstein weighs health history, body type, athleticism, character, work ethic, mechanics and toughness among the factors in determining whether a pitcher is worth it.

"If you sign Andy Pettitte at age 31, you would have gotten performance throughout the contract," Epstein said. "So it's just a matter of trying to sign the right guy."

Brown became baseball's first $100 million man when he signed with the Dodgers in December 1998. He had pitched Florida to the 1997 World Series title and San Diego to the 1998 NL pennant.

Brown's deal shocked a sport accustomed to escalating salaries since free agency began in 1976.

Sandy Alderson, then an executive in the commissioner's officer, called it `an affront to baseball.'

"I'm in mourning," said Larry Lucchino, San Diego's president at the time. "Not for the Padres, but for baseball."

Pacquiao, Mayweather agree on $250M Las Vegas mega-fight

By GARETH A DAVIES
THE TELEGRAPH BOXING CORRESPONDENT

The richest match-up in boxing history between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao has finally been agreed after years of haggling.

A source close to the Filipino boxer and congressman revealed to *The Sunday Telegraph* that Pacquiao completed his contractual agreements on Saturday and that Mayweather is set to sign and will announce the contest which is expected to be worth $250 million (£162 million) in the coming days.

Mayweather was in New York on Friday, buying hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of jewelry, and there are indications that the unbeaten American boxer could even decide to announce the superfight officially at the NBA All-Star Game tip-off, which takes place on Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

"Manny has 100 per cent signed his side of the deal," the source told Telegraph Sport. "It is now over to Mayweather to close the deal and announce the fight." Pacquiao himself revealed Friday that he has started training in General Santos City, Philippines for his next fight.

Before his face-to-face meeting with Pacquiao last month at a basketball match in Miami, where the pair later met for an hour in the Filipino's hotel suite, Mayweather had appeared on CBS coverage of a boxing event in December and announced that his decision was to face Pacquiao in the ring on May 2.

Rivals Pacquiao and Mayweather bump into each other at basketball match 28 Jan 2015

Through January, however, leaked comments from both sides led to claim and counter-claim over negotiations, which appeared to have stalled again.

But the meeting in Miami re-ignited the deal. Both parties agreed that MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas would be the venue of the fight.

Mayweather has had his past 10 fights there, while Pacquiao has had five of his past seven bouts there.

The fight the world has waited for, on and off for almost six years, now looks set to take place at the MGM Grand on May 2, although it is believed that there are two other dates on the table.

Behind the scenes, the talks have been complex. Top Rank chairman Bob Arum, Pacquiao's promoter, has overseen his side of the negotiations for the bout since November last year through Leslie Moonves, the president and CEO of CBS, whose subsidiary network Showtime has two more fights left on a six-fight deal with Mayweather.

Rack 'N Roll jumps on top of Thursday billiards

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another Abyss-supported team jumped on top of the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League's Winter/Spring 2015 season held in various bars on Saipan last week.

The Abyss Rack 'N Roll won nine of their last 10 match ups against the Jokers Wonderpool Aces to complete an 11-4 rout.

Warlee Ellama and Roy Tereyama, with the Rack 'N Roll trailing 3-2 after the first set of singles matches, started the rout when they defeated Ruben Esmundo and Rolly Bermiso in the first partners event.

Tereyama, in the second set of singles matches, was beaten by Bermiso to become the lone casualty in the Rack 'N Roll's winning run.

The Rack 'N Roll has compiled 20 wins out of the 30 games they played with the Jokers Homeboyz not too far behind with an 18-12 record. Wild Bill's and the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot are also breathing down their necks with identical 17-13 slates.

The Abyss Titans, the early leader, suffered a 9-6 decision against the Homeboyz to fifth place with an even 15-15 card.

Smoke Pub Magic 8 also scored a 9-6 win over the Route 33 Alamo Car Rental, while Wild Bill's eked out an 8-7 triumph against Jonny's Team SCS. The Deadshot cruised to a 12-3 victory over sister team Breakers in other Thursday matches.

In the Tuesday League, the Jokers IT&E Voyagers are slowly establishing some distance with the five other teams after posting a 10-5 win over sister team Str8 Shooters.

The Voyagers, last season's regular and Budweiser Cup champions, already compiled a 21-9 slate followed by the Abyss Crazy 8 and Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers' similar 15-15 marks.

The Crazy 8 edged the Hustlers, 9-6, and the Abyss Homeboyz 2 escaped with an 8-7 decision over the Smoke Pub Destroyers with George Lizardo beating Jeff Garcia to deliver the crucial win for their team.

Action continues tomorrow in the third week of the Tuesday League with the Str8 Shooters taking on the Hustlers, while the Destroyers face the Voyagers and the Crazy 8 clash with the Homeboyz in various bars on Saipan.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the Breakers collide with the Wonderpool Aces, the Hobbies Deadshot meet the Homeboyz, Rack 'N Roll tackle Team SCS, the Titans challenge Alamo Car Rental with Wild Bill's taking a bye.

All set for Genesis Cup opening

It's all system go for the returning Genesis Cup as organizers ironed out the final details for the opening of the Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League in a meeting yesterday at the JIL Church.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Genesis Cup participating teams, players, and officials pose for a photo after their meeting yesterday at the JIL Church.

Participating teams agreed to a 3pm opening ceremony this Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Eight teams will be vying for the championship, including defending champion Daniel, which defeated Isaiah in the finals of last edition of the league in 2008 before it took a six-year hiatus.

Schedule of the opening games will be announced later, while succeeding matches will take place every Monday and Friday, starting at 6pm.

This season's participating teams are made up of church members from JIL, Cornerstone Christian Church, Grace Christian, Saipan Community Church, Filipino Community Church, Life in the Son, Upper Room International Ministry, Marianas Christian Church, Victorious Christian Church, Saipan Bible Fellowship, Christian Bible Fellowship, and Marianas Bible Fellowship Center. (***Saipan Tribune)***

LADY

From Page 28

It was also a fitting send off for the seven seniors of Lady Dolphins coach Cathy Winkfield's players.

Havika Farro, Shanna Flores, Russel Javan, Beryl Kohnen, Jenny Lee, Hercia Nekaifes, and Sabrina Pangelinan are all graduating after the school year.

SIS played catch up most of the match as MHS built an early lead, which they carefully protected up to the final whistle.

MHS moved to match point at 24-14 after an SIS error but the Lady Geckos' hopes were kept alive by back-to-back mishits by the Lady Dolphins.

Emily Jones found a hole on the SIS defense at the middle to end the Lady Geckos' slim chances of forcing a third set.

Jubilation erupted from the pro MHS crowd when SIS failed to return that Jones hit.

"It was a tough season for us despite going undefeated. It wasn't an easy task but I'm glad my team responded to the challenge," said a still ecstatic Winkfield after the game.

The Lady Dolphins will have a different composition next year, and this early Winkfield is hoping that the remaining players would work harder to keep the crown at MHS.

"We're going to train harder to remain at the top. The remaining girls will come back and hopefully we could repeat," said Winkfield.

MHS defeated Agape Christian Academy, Mt. Carmel School, SIS, and GCA in the double-elimination round. The Lady Dolphins scored a 25-21, 25-16 win over the Lady Eagles to seal the first finals spot.

SIS, after dropping in the loser's bracket, scored a 25-16, 25-22 win over MCS to keep its title hopes alive. The Lady Geckos clinched the second championship berth with a 25-13, 26-24 decision.

ARIES

From Page 28

plete 11-player roster, but was one man down (due to injury) come game time, allowing Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) to suit up for the visiting team. The squad went on to make up for its lack of enough manpower with high-level passing, dribbling, and ball control skills, good spacing, and organized defense.

The Tokyo-based team's defense was so good that in the entire second half, the Blue Ayuyus failed to make a single attempt. The closest thing that the host squad could do was when Sean Perez sprinted from the left sideline, chasing a forward pass from John Diego Masga. Perez, who scored the two goals in the CNMI's 2-0 win over Japan Soccer College early this month, got the ball and slipped past a taller defender in Akihito Ito. However another taller and mobile Aries FC defender (Kouhei Iwama) confronted Perez inside the penalty area, while goalie Dai Onoue was also all eyes on the play. Perez did not have a chance to kick the ball after a few dribbles, as Iwama stole possession and kicked the ball out as time expired.

It was the same story all day long for the CNMI's offense, as it had limited touches and when it did, Aries FC's defenders at the back were quick to react and break up the play. Aries FC read the CNMI's offense well, which was anchored on Perez and it started with getting forward passes from Scott Kim and Masga. Ryu Tanzawa was also with Perez at back, hoping for outlets, but simply could not past the agile Aries FC defenders.

On offense, the visiting squad made good passes and was familiar with each other's location even though they were all over the pitch, leaving the CNMI defense guessing who's going to take the shot. It did not help that the host team missed the services of defenders Enrico Del Rosario and John Taisacan.

Two of Aries FC's first three goals came off passes with Koji Murayama netting the first one in the 26th minute off an assist from Kenji Tamaki. Tamaki also hit the board as Murayama, instead of going for a penalty kick, swung the ball over to the former who made the cross in the 38th minute. Furuta completed Aries FC's scoring in the first half with a wide open shot at the center a few feet away from the penalty area in the 36th minute. Joshua Galarion was the CNMI's goalie in the first half.

Chris Aninzo relieved Galarion in the second half and made several saves that prevented Aries FC from piling up more goals. Aries FC got its two other goals in the final half from Furuta and Murayama. Furuta went for a left cross volley that hit the top of the post before rolling down, giving Aries FC a 4-0 advantage in the 60th minute. Murayama's goal came off a rebound in the 78th minute, as Tamaki attacked from the wing, with Aninzo pushing the ball out a bit, but the former went for a followup inside the penalty area.

"There's a lot of movement from the Aries FC players that's why they have a lot of scoring opportunities. That's something that our players learned and will try to follow in our future games. Exhibition games like these provide our players learning times regardless of the results," said assistant coach Jershwin Angeles.

TEACHERS

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prevails in the fourth set.

With the Veterans finding a new lease of life, they used the momentum they got from their fourth-set win to notch a 14-7 triumph in the first overtime and boost their title bid. The Veterans needed two overtime wins to complete the come-from-behind win.

However, in the second overtime, the Teachers regrouped and erected an 11-5 advantage, moving just one point away from bagging the championship. In the last game in the finals, the overtime set is a race-to-12 affair or the first to score a goal wins it. However in the first-to-12 rule, the leading team has to get its 12th or more points off a good first serve.

The Teachers failed to get that good serve in the next few plays, allowing the Veterans to tie the game on three occasions, 12-12, 13-13-, 14-14, before Jacoby Winkfield delivered the ace to finally end the series.

Winkfield and Gross were the heavy hitters in Game 5, scoring 16 points ace. Gross had six kees and two aces, while Winkfield had seven kees and an ace. Mister added 14 markers off seven kees, while Winkfield chipped in 6 off two kees and one xunk.

Besides winning Game 5, the Teachers also took Games 2 (48-35) and 4. The Teachers forced the equalizer after also slipping past the Veterans in overtime in Game 4, 57-32. The Veterans juiced out the Teachers in Game 1, 43-37, and won Game 3 in double overtime, scoring one goal each in the extended sets.

Miyazuka again tops Tinian Turquoise

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hideya Miyazuka, the overall winner for 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon, negotiates the run portion of the race on Saturday.

KAMMER BEACH, Tinian—Hideya Miyazuka of Japan topped the 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon, besting 46 other competitors last Saturday.

Miyazuka finished the triathlon in 2:41:07 beating his record last year of 2:42:13. He was followed by Peter Prestley of Saipan, who clocked in at 2:48:19, and Yasunori Sugimura of Japan who crossed the finish line 2:48:51.

Miyazuka, who had the No. 1 marked on his shoulder, was the first to finish in the swim and bike splits. For the swim Miyazuka's time was 0:25:35 and for the bike it was 1:28:57. Sugimura then beat Miyazuka in the run with his 0:44:54.

The top female competitors were Kimiko McKaga of Saipan with a 3:13:12 time. Kaitlin Mattos was the second top competitor with time of 3:20:30 time and Lorie Hutchison with a time of 3:29:34.

Surprisingly, Hayato Kumagai, the youngest who at 14 years of age, finished at 17th place out of 46 competitors for the triathlon. His time was 3:38:49.

For the triathlon team, Margaret Rose's team won with a score of 3:14:23. Sayuri Kondo won for the 1.5km swim with a time of 0:37:06. For the 3.0km swim, Akie Matoba of Japan won with a time of 1:01:15, followed by Kazumi Mineo (1:06:12) and Masaaki Aoki (1:30:37).

For the 4.5km swim, Carollyn Pierce won with a time of 1:32:54 and Shinobu Takasaki came in second with a time of 1:38:04, while R.J. Pierce came in first in the young category with a time of 1:32:30.

The triathlon started with a 1.5K, 3.0K, and 4.5K swim. A 40-kilometer bike race from Kammer Beach and a two-lap run from the Tinian Suicide Cliff to the airport intersection road and then down to Kammer Beach. Then a 10-kilometer run to Suicide Cliff and back to Kammer Beach.

After the triathlon, an award ceremony was held at the festival grounds in Kammer Beach.

"The MVA extends its appreciation and congratulations to the organizer and participants of the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon. This is the second year that their event coincides with the festival. We invite you and our guest from the neighboring islands to take some time from the festival to explore the island," Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said.

Lee leads Coconut Classic finalists

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee made short work of Tania Tan, 6-1, 6-0, to march into the finals of women's singles event in the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Lee disputes the women's singles championship against Mikayla Lopez today at 9:30am as the latter also swept Negahr Rastguiy in the other semis match last weekend, 6-2, 6-1. Rastguiy and Tan played the consolation match yesterday with the former winning, 6-0, 6-2.

In the girls U14 singles, it will be Malika Miyawaki versus Mimi Sakano. Miyawaki took the finals seat in the upper bracket following a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Conatsu Kaga, while Sakano prevailed in the lower draw semis match against Asia Raulerson, 6-2, 6-1. Sakano and Miyawaki battle for the division championship today at 8am, while Conatsu Kaga and Raulerson were scheduled to fight for third place yesterday afternoon.

In the girls U12 division, Conatsu's younger sister, Coume, advanced to the finals after outclassing Rico Ojima in the semifinals of the bottom half of the draw, 6-3, 6-1. Coume will be pitted against Erika Tuttle, who pulled off an upset over top-ranked Maria Gregoire yesterday, 6-3, 6-2. Before falling to Tuttle, Gregoire boosted her finals bid and made it to the semifinals following a tough 4-6, 6-3, 10-6 win over Susan Sablan last Saturday. With the loss, Gregoire has to settle for the consolation match against Ojima today at 12:30pm.

Meanwhile, the two other girls singles contest—U10 and U16 divisions—have a round-robin format and the last matches today will determine the champions of each category.

In the girls U16, Tan and Isabel Heras held identical 2-0 records after last weekend's matches and they will battle for the division title today. Tan won over Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-4, 6-1, and Caitlyn Tinney (walkover). Heras also swept Tsukagoshi, 6-1, 6-1, and had similar walkover triumph against Tinney to set up her title-deciding game against Tan today.

In the girls U10, Tiara Imai and Hyejin Elliot square off for the crown at 2pm after going unbeaten over the weekend. Elliot, who came off a 6-0 win over Michelle Ryu in Week 1, downed Soleil Lamar in Week 2, 7-5. Imai, on the other hand, defeated Lamar in the opening week, 6-2, before dominating Ryu last weekend, 6-1. Ryu avoided a shutout in the division by topping Lamar in the battle for third yesterday, 6-4.

Results in the boys division and mixed-up doubles will be reported later this week as other championship matches are scheduled today.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here returning a shot to Negahr Rastguiy in Week 1 of the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts, advanced into the finals of the women's open singles.

Day of routs in Major League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

One-sided matches were the order of the day as the three games in the Saipan Little League's Majors division last Saturday all ended by the mercy rule at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan baseball field.

Comets 16, IT&E Comets 5

Reid Teregeyo blasted an RBI triple in the Comets' nine-run first inning as they capitalized on their opponents' five errors.

Teregeyo also scored one run, while the IT&E Comets committed 13 errors overall.

John Paul Castro pitched a complete game cut short by the mercy rule. He only gave up two hits, while striking out seven and walking three batters.

Padres 13, Jets 3

Tylon Sablan had an RBI double and pitched three innings where he held the Jets to two hits with six strikeouts and four walks.

Mark Tabora pitched two shutout innings in relief and was unhittable, fanning five and walking one batter.

Terrance Babauta, who walked in the first inning, hit a solo home run in the fifth in a 3-for-4 performance at the plate. He also had four runs and three RBIs.

Falcons 25, McDonald's 0

The Falcons scored 20 runs in the second inning, and Aven Evangelista and Keoni Serrano shared pitching duties to shut out McDonald's.

Evangelista pitched 1 1/2 innings in start and gave up one hit to Franklin Pangelinan, while Serrano completed the win, striking out four and walking one batter.

Evangelista also went 3-for-4 at the plate with four runs and two RBIs, while Joel Norita, 2-for-3, had a double, scored four times and had two RBIs.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Red Sox 9, Falcons 6

The Red Sox used a five-run first inning to beat the Falcons.

Austin Indalencio pitched a complete game and gave up seven hits, while striking out seven batters.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Enforcers 10, Braves 7

Nate Nogis went 2-for-4 and scored twice, while Kier Agda lasted for five innings to lead the Enforcers to victory.

Agda gave up five hits, fanning four, and walking three batters.

Franklin Lizama pitched two innings in relief and allowed two hits with one strikeout and two walks.

Red Sox 6, Comets 2

Richard Atang closed out the last four innings holding the Comets to two hits to complete the win. He struck out five and walked one.

Jobe Reyes lasted for three innings in his first start this season allowing the Comets to two hits, fanning four, and walking two batters.

Nathan Camacho went 2-for-4 to lead the Red Sox's batting.

JON PEREZ
Falcons pitcher Keoni Serrano throws to the plate in their game against McDonald's in the Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.

Curry wins 3-point contest, LaVine takes dunk competition

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Lady Dolphins complete unbeaten season

JON PEREZ

The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins celebrate their second straight title in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League. MHS defeated SIS in the finals last Saturday in their home court at the MHS Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas High School completed its perfect season with a masterful 25-19, 25-16 victory over Saipan International School in the finals of the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS swept all of its 10 games in the elimination round then breezed through in the final tournament to clinch the first finals berth and the twice-to-beat incentive that goes with it. Overall, the Lady Dolphins finished with a 15-0 record.

The Lady Dolphins successfully defended the title that they snatched from 2013 champions Grace Christian Academy last year.

MHS, since dropping the opening set in its first game against the GCA Lady Eagles, never dropped a frame after that in its 15-game winning run.

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Teachers rule Rocball League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teachers players pose with their championship trophy after receiving the award from Rocball League organizer James Feger, right. The Teachers beat the Veterans in the deciding Game 5 of their title series last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Teachers survived the Veterans in double overtime of the deciding Game 5 of their title showdown to rule the 2014-2015 Saipan Rocball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Teachers won the second overtime, 16-14, to foil the Veterans' bid to steal the championship. The newly crowned champion squad is composed of MHS teachers Tyce Mister, Nick Gross, and the husband-and-wife tandem Jacoby and Kathy Winkfield.

The quartet had to go through two overtimes to wrap up the best-of-five title series after J.R. Gechig-led Veterans pulled off a 25-21 victory in the fourth set. The win in the last regular set was only the Veterans first in the rubber, as the Teachers were all business in the first three, 25-9, 27-15, 25-7. Saipan Rocball creator James Feger used the quarter scoring in every set in the last game in the finals.

By the end of regulation, the Teachers were way ahead, 98-56, however it could not get the juiced-out win and the championship as Rocball rules state that the leading team can only take the victory if it also

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Aries FC blanks CNMI U18, 5-0

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A depleted, but cohesive Aries Football Club crew shut down the CNMI Boys U18 National Team, 5-0, in an exhibition game last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Aries FC, one of the known clubs in Tokyo, arrived on Saipan with a com-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Joel Fruit is caught holding on to Aries FC's Kenji Tamaki during the second half of their exhibition game last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.